

NEWS ROUNDUP

RUC arrest 5 in building inquiry

The Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday announced a breakthrough in the campaign against building site rackets that have netted terrorist groups in Northern Ireland millions of pounds in recent years.

The arrest of five men — three in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, and two in Holloway, north London — came after a two-year operation by the RUC and Inland Revenue.

The RUC said all the men were being questioned about terrorist-related offences associated with republican racketeering.

The arrests were part of a much wider investigation which is continuing on building sites in London, Merseyside, Birmingham and Glasgow, as well as in Northern Ireland.

Tax fraud and protection rackets operated by both republican and "loyalist" groups are said to put up the price of house-building in Northern Ireland by as much as 20 per cent.

The Housing Executive, the province's sole housing authority, was accused in a court case last year of turning a blind eye to the racketeering which has cost UK taxpayers millions of pounds over the past decade.

Three members of the same family were being questioned yesterday after security forces found a Soviet made RPG7 rocket launcher in a garden shed on the republican Creggan estate in Londonderry.

Life for hospital killer

A man who shot dead his former girl friend in a hospital ward, while her policeman guard telephoned to warn a senior officer that she might be in danger, was jailed for life at Aylesbury Crown Court, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. David Jenkins, aged 25, of Grace Way, Stevenage, who was besotted with Carolyn Myland, also from Stevenage, killed her with a single blast from a shotgun. He fired after pulling back the curtain of the cubicle where Miss Myland, aged 24, was awaiting treatment for a knife wound he had inflicted.

'Gay' clause opposed

Members of the actors' union, Equity, yesterday voted to increase opposition to the clause in the Local Government Finance Bill which bans local authorities from promoting homosexuality. Members rejected a strike call by Miss Vanessa Redgrave but instructed the union council to monitor the effects of the clause and to produce guidelines to prevent members from self-censoring their work.

Cardiologist retires

A heart specialist who objects to the ethics of transplants is retiring early from Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge. Dr David Wainwright Evans, aged 60, a consultant cardiologist, has opposed heart transplants since they began at the hospital in 1979. Dr Evans, who was at the centre of a dispute over brain death which caused transplant numbers to dwindle, claimed again yesterday that donors were not yet dead when their hearts were removed.

Potato beetle alert

An alert was issued last night after Colorado beetles were found in a consignment of parsley imported from Italy. Traders and the public were urged to report any sightings immediately as government officials tried to trace the parsley. Five beetles, which are half an inch long with yellow and black stripes were found in Glasgow.

Very bad for business

When Mr Andrew Dunley, sales director of Simba Security Systems, arrived for the opening day of the International Fire Protection and Security Exhibition at Olympia, he found that thieves had stolen his firm's display of remote controlled car alarms.

Confusion greets social security reforms

Claimants besiege offices

By Staff Reporters

The age of new social security payments dawned yesterday amid intense confusion among claimants and sporadic protests from groups of Civil Servants concerned that the new rates could lead to increased violence against them.

Assistants have been on training courses studying the new system since last autumn, but the complexity of the regulations meant that few claimants could be told their new payments. The majority will have to wait for a detailed calculation.

The regulations also prompted a demonstration from pensioners outside Downing Street where their spokesman, Mr Jack Jones, the former trade union leader, accused the Government of "robbing" them through the changes.

Officials at the Bloomsbury social security office, central London, had to close their doors at noon because of the number of claimants, many of whom were eager to establish their new entitlement, after it had been closed for four weeks because of industrial action.

Claimants arriving at the office in Ealing, Birmingham, also found the doors locked by staff who were protesting about job cuts. Members of the Civil and Public Services Association said that 26 jobs were to be lost because of the introduction of the new system.

At the offices in Peckham, south London, the sign on the door summed up the mood of the staff: "Peckham DHSS (Department of Health and Social Security) officers are not responsible for the allocation of the new social fund. Please do not take it out on them." The plea survived for half an hour. By 10am it had been ripped down by a frustrated claimant.

Indeed, emotions ranged from confusion to fury yesterday as claimants tried to come to terms with the new system.

Lisa Brown, aged 19, an unemployed single mother, had arrived at 10.30am expecting to be able to claim for a cot for her baby girl, who was born last week one month prematurely.

Under the old system she could have expected a special payment for a vital piece of equipment that she could not afford. After waiting four hours, she was told she could

now be considered only for a loan. "How can I pay back the money for a cot when I cannot even pay my heating bill? I have to keep the heating on for my baby the whole time", she said.

One mother of two was in tears after discovering the new rules on emergency payments. Before yesterday she could have expected an emergency refund after losing her laundry benefit cheque for £46. Under the new rules, officers are able to make emergency payments only if the money has been lost through the fault of the DHSS. "I don't know how I'm going to manage", Mrs Cindy O'Reilly, aged 29, said. "I face a huge laundry bill because my daughter Pamela wets her bed two or three times a night."

At Bloomsbury, several young mothers, their babies in push-chairs, were turned away after arriving to pick up new allowance order books. Miss Albina Flynn, aged 24, who is six months pregnant, was hoping to be given a giro cheque for £34.50 but the booted doors meant she was forced to return home.

The pressure on the DHSS offices also meant that Miss Anita Garcia, from north London, was unable to be

given a cheque for the £319 she is owed in child benefit arrears. "I think I will be better off under the new system, but I am obviously anxious to know officially. All I know so far is from the newspapers", she said.

At offices in Birmingham, Civil Servants put up placards claiming that the "richest gain most" and "62 per cent of claimants lose".

Mrs Grace Taylor, aged 54, of Castle Vale, who arrived to claim invalidity benefit for her sick husband, Leslie, aged 58, said: "I do not know whether the changes will affect us because I cannot get in to find out, but I am worried about the future."

"I suppose I can sympathize with the staff because I have been here before and it has been terrible. It was packed out and people were bawling about."

In Scotland, as with most other parts of the country, staff were dealing with tens of thousands of single payment claims lodged before the deadline last Friday.

Benefit offices such as the one at Glasgow Craigton in the city's Paisley Road West deal with up to 1,000 claim-

ants each week, but yesterday most claimants were still waiting to see how the new rules would affect them.

Figures show that almost a third of Scots now live below or on the poverty line. One of them, Mr John Bullock, was waiting at the Amiesland office, which serves the vast Drumchapel housing estate on the edge of Glasgow. "I got £37 last week. I am just waiting to see what I get this week. I don't really understand the changes, it just matters what I get in the end", he said.

Craigton normally deals with between 800 and 1,000 supplementary benefit claims and about 200 requests for single payments a week. Mr Ian Brisbane, the office's manager, said that over the past six weeks single payment requests had been running at almost 200 a day.

"The first real reaction from people will be when we get requests for 'crisis' loans coming through. Formerly, these crisis payments were in the form of grants for anything from children's clothing to household furniture, but will now be repayable loans."

The confusion intensified as the Church of Scotland con-

demned the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor.

Professor Duncan Forrester, one of the editors of a book compiled by a church working party on the distribution of wealth, said: "Social security re-arrangements which make life more difficult for many poor people are particularly offensive when others prosper exceedingly."

Professor Forrester, speaking in Edinburgh at the launch of the book, *Just Sharing - A Christian Approach to the Distribution of Wealth, Income and Benefits*, said that a society which "humiliated" poor people and which increased means testing was evil. "A society that tolerates or neglects increasing poverty is a sick society."

The working party calls for an extension of the higher, long-term rate of supplementary benefit, increased child benefit, higher pensions and the introduction of a national disability income.

After handing in letters of protest at Downing Street, Mr Jones said that almost half of Britain's pensioners would suffer.

Advice offices forced to shut

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux were forced to close their doors yesterday as streams of benefit claimants sought help to get extra money.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that many of their officers arrived in the morning to find queues outside their doors. "Within minutes offices were crammed shoulder to shoulder with claimants who were unable to believe that they no longer qualified for this or that benefit," the association said. "In many cases offices reached saturation point and had to close their doors."

The most common inquiry concerned housing benefit. "People could not believe that they had to pay 20 per cent of their rates without getting it back some other way," the association's spokesman said. "Many were both shocked and worried and felt they were being left high and dry."

Charities were also inundated with calls from claimants no longer able to get single payments for beds and cookers. The Family Welfare Association said it had had to close its grant section for all clients except children, the sick and pensioners, because it had already allocated most of its funds. "We will now only look at applications from these special groups but we cannot guarantee that we will pay up," the association said.

The association gave one example where a family of six children asked for financial assistance after a fire in their house which was not insured for contents. After being refused help by the DHSS, the family applied for a grant from the FWA to cover beds and bedding, kitchen equipment and clothing. The FWA estimated that they needed at least £1,200 but could give them only £60.

The new benefit rates will leave many of the poor undernourished, according to a survey by a district dietitian in Bradford, Mrs Fran Hanes, which shows that a healthy diet for a teenager would take up 80 per cent of the allowance a family would get for their child under the new income support benefit.

Speelman holds on to lead

Jonathan Speelman, Britain's chess world championship quarter-finalist, has maintained his grip on the lead in the £100,000 World Cup Tournament being played in Brussels.

Speelman kept first place in spite of not playing in the eighth round on Sunday, after his opponent, the Soviet grand master, Rafael Vaganian, withdrew because of a family bereavement.

Scores after the eighth round leave Speelman on five points from seven games, ahead of Salov and Karpov of the Soviet Union with five points from eight games. Karpov beat Sokolov on Sunday, while Salov drew his game with J Timman.

Other results: L Winants lost to V Korchnoi; G Sax drew with L Ljubojevic; J Nunn drew with U Andersson; J Nogueiras lost to A Beliavsky; L Portisch drew with M Tal; and the game between Y Seirawan and P Nikolic was adjourned with the latter holding some advantage.

It is also considering erecting junction warning signs along the central reservation of motorways to supplement the big signs which are often partially obscured by undergrowth. According to a recent survey by the Automobile Association, about 288 of 846 motorway signs had their junction numbers obscured.

The £200million spent by lost motorists, a combination of money spent unnecessarily on petrol, road repairs and on drivers' time, was constantly increasing, the report said.

In London, drivers will travel almost 100 million miles more than they did last year.

Their average speed during peak periods has declined from nearly 13 mph in 1970 to less than 12 mph.

Movement for London, the roads pressure group, which predicts a 50 per cent rise in the number of people travelling to work by car in the capital by 2001, said the situation can only get worse.

Details of the report were disclosed yesterday as authorities struggle to speed up the ever-decreasing pace of traffic in congested cities.

The Department of Transport is sponsoring a £160,000 pilot project, which will begin this summer, to re-signpost the town of Guildford, Surrey, in a style which includes new junction name signs.

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Traffic management

Lost drivers 'waste £200m'

By Paul Valley

Lost motorists waste about £200 million a year driving on roads which they need never use in the first place, according to a confidential report on road signs which is being prepared for the Department of Transport.

While many do not know where they are going, their main problem is the most of them do not know where they are, the report said.

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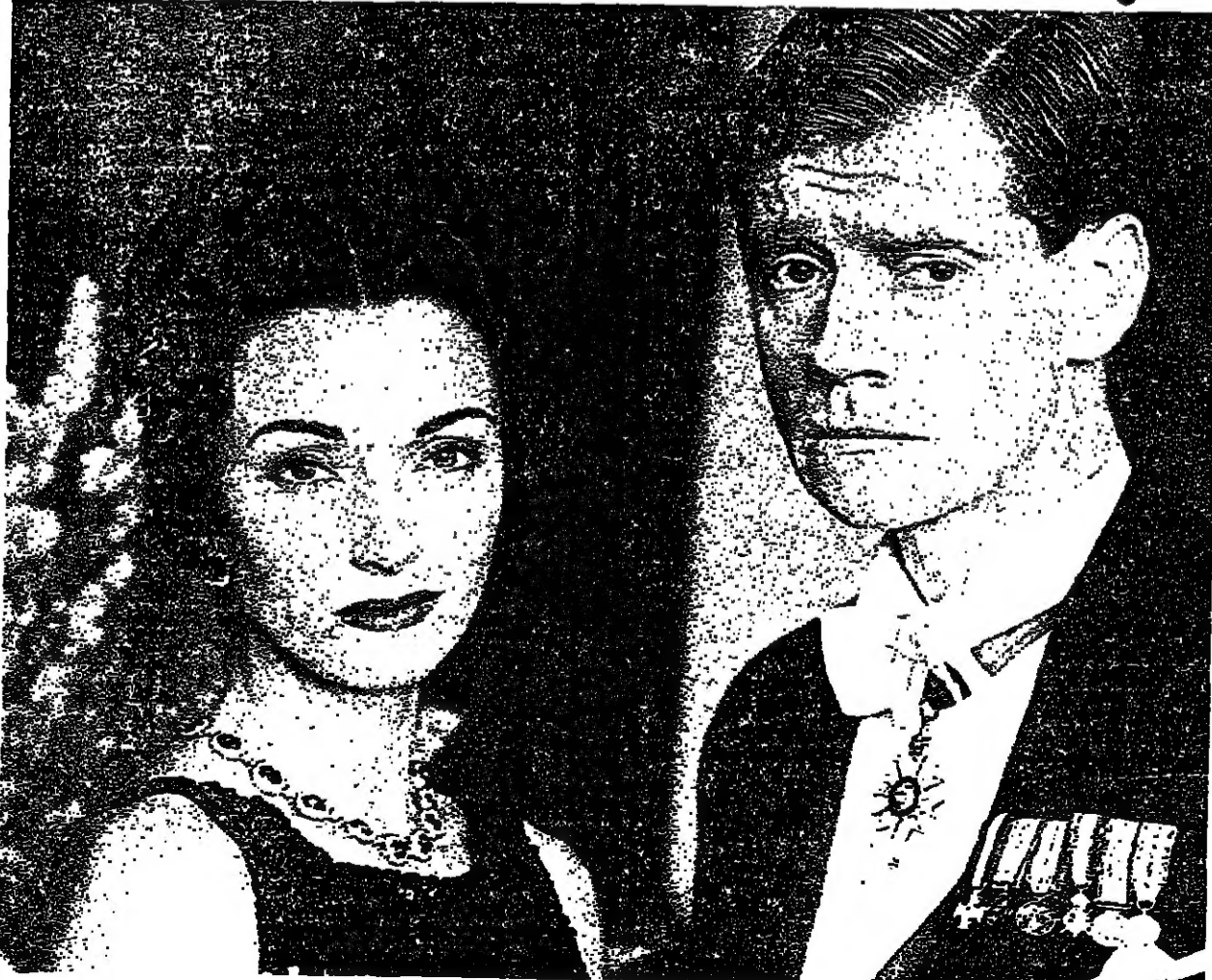
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Tonight.

The love story of the century.



THE WOMAN HE LOVED

Anthony Andrews stars as Edward, Prince of Wales and Jane Seymour as American divorcee Wallis Simpson in one of the century's greatest love stories.

TONIGHT AT 8 PM.



هكذا من الأهل

Controllers see air miss jets 'merge'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air traffic controllers at West Drayton watched helplessly yesterday as the radar "blips" from two jets carrying a total of more than 320 people merged head on into one as they passed over Wales.

A full investigation is being held into the incident which could have brought the aircraft to within half a mile of each other.

An American Airlines DC 10 on its way from Dallas to Gatwick with 228 passengers and eight crew was given permission to head for a beacon at Strumble Head, Dyfed, at a height of 31,000ft.

But at the same time an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 with 80 passengers was heading to the same spot at the same height in the opposite direction before turning right towards Dublin.

Somewhat, it is believed, the DC10 was "missed" by at least two and possibly three controllers whose attention was drawn to the incident only when they heard both pilots report seeing each other.

American Airlines claims that the aircraft did not come closer than two miles but Aer Lingus says that it could have been as close as half a mile.

Significantly the Civil Aviation Authority, which released details of the air miss under its new policy of immediate disclosure, refused to say that it did not carry any risk — its normal statement in non-serious incidents.

Although air misses can happen twice a week in the summer season yesterday's incident was clearly more serious than most.

Jaguar workers to strike as talks fail

By Craig Seton

Workers at Jaguar will strike from Monday unless the car company withdraws its threat to impose productivity changes, a union official said last night.

Mr Christopher Liddell, the Transport and General Workers' Union officer with responsibility for the motor industry in the Coventry area, said the unions involved were willing to hold further talks to explore ways out of the dispute.

However, they remained bewildered that Jaguar had chosen such an "entirely inappropriate moment" to announce that it would impose its productivity plans.

The decision of the workforce in the strike ballot three weeks ago was to resist by industrial action any measures the company took to impose

new productivity arrangements without agreement, Mr Liddell said.

Yesterday, management told shop stewards representing the 4,000 assembly line workers at the Browns Lane, Coventry, plant it would go ahead from next Monday with plans to increase production by 93 cars a week.

After yesterday's talks, which lasted three hours, Jaguar said: "We have explained our position yet again to union representatives, but they have maintained their objections to our proposals. As a result, we intend to start phasing in increases in productivity from April 18."

The manual workers stood to gain an extra £12.50 a week in bonuses from the production schedules.

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Advice offices forced to shut

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Citizens Advice Bureaux are forced to close their doors tomorrow as streams of local claimants begin to help.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said that many of their offices are being closed because of cuts in local authority social services. The association said that many of the bureaux are being closed because of cuts in local authority social services.

The most common reason for the closure of bureaux is the loss of local authority funding. The association said that many of the bureaux are being closed because of cuts in local authority social services.

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Dockland empire 'was created from Brink's Mat gold'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Gold from the £26 million Brink's Mat robbery was turned into cash, laundered and then invested to create a property portfolio in London's docklands worth £18 million, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The portfolio held with the aid of a firm called Selective Estates, was built up from £7.5 million drawn from the record robbery and paid into bank accounts in Britain and abroad.

The money was moved offshore and then brought back to Britain by a group including a London solicitor and a watchdog acting on behalf of the robbers.

Opening the prosecution case, Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, told the court the nine defendants were accused of either taking part in the robbery in 1983 or of moving or using money gained from it. He said the £7.5 million became the basis of expanding investments.

Property he said had been sold to buy new investments or mortgages raised to raise cash for other purchases. Money had been invested in docklands development where Mr Purnell said prices had been astronomical.

Mr Purnell told the court that there had already been one Brink's Mat trial which has led to the conviction of Michael McAvoy, Brian Robinson and another man for the theft of the gold. A second trial had led to the conviction of four men, including Kenneth Noye, for smelting the stolen gold and selling it.

Yesterday, the nine defendants all pleaded not guilty. They are Michael Reiton, aged 49, a solicitor from

Haslemere, Surrey; Brian Perry, aged 48, a company director from Biggin Hill, Kent; John Elcombe, aged 39, an antique dealer from Maidstone, Kent, and his wife Anne, aged 38; Stephen Donovan, aged 34, a property dealer from Stepney, east London; Kathleen McAvoy, aged 40, from Bromley, Kent; Jacqueline McAvoy, aged 33, a housewife, from Bickley, Kent; Michael Osborn, aged 44, a car dealer from Maidstone, Kent, and Joseph Medayil, aged 55, an accountant, from New Barnet, north London.

Mr Reiton, Mr Perry, Mrs Elcombe, Mr Donovan, Mrs Kathleen McAvoy and Mr Medayil have pleaded not guilty to conspiring with Mr Gordon Parry and Mr Michael McAvoy to handle a quantity of gold stolen from Brink's Mat by Mr McAvoy and others.

Mr Reiton, Mr Perry, Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy, Mr Osborn and Mr Medayil have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to handle stolen goods with Mr McAvoy.

Mr Reiton, Mr Donovan and Mrs Kathleen McAvoy have pleaded not guilty to a similar charge involving a farm at Bickley.

At the start of a lengthy trial Judge Richard Lowry, QC, told the jury he had ordered police surveillance for them during the case.

Mr Purnell said the prosecution claimed there was a tenth person intimately involved. He was Gordon Parry who was used as a figurehead. He was said to be involved in the property world and companies were formed around him. He had yet to be arrested. The court was told that the

Elcombe smuggled money abroad as couriers. The couple's frequent journeys as antique dealers was an excellent cover for taking money to Switzerland and later Liechtenstein. Mr Elcombe was Mr Parry's cousin. Mr Purnell said Mr Donovan worked in the property world and was employed by selective estates to advise on property transactions.

Mrs Kathleen McAvoy was the robber's second wife. Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy was his first wife who was given a substantial home in Kent knowing the source of the money for the home.

Mr Osborn, a long standing associate of McAvoy, helped her by acting as a conduit for assets. Mr Medayil, who had done business with Reiton and Parry, helped Mrs Jacqueline McAvoy to get a mortgage to cover the real source of the money for home.

Mr Purnell told the court that yet another of the shields used to hide the gold and money from sight was created by the robbers themselves. After the conviction of Robinson and McAvoy the two men tried to strike a deal offering back proceeds from the Brink's Mat robbery in return for a cut in the sentences or early parole.

Overall Mr Purnell said a figure of £11 million or £12 million in gold or cash from the Brink's Mat robbery had been identified.

He said it may be that Mr Perry, Mr Parry and Mr Reiton had a plan that in due course money would be given back to the authorities but only at a time that suited them.

The case continues today.

Petrol tanker crash closes town



A sea of foam surrounds the overturned petrol tanker in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, yesterday (Photograph: Mark Baker).

A town centre was evacuated yesterday when a 38-ton petrol tanker overturned, crushing a car, trapping its driver, and flooding the streets with fuel. Fumes from the spillage were blamed for an explosion a quarter of a mile away.

A five-mile stretch of the Thames near the accident, at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was polluted. Boats were banned between Shepperton and Sunbury, and two water intakes were closed to stop reservoirs becoming contaminated. Police closed the town to traffic.

Emergency services, unable to use cutting equipment because of the fire risk, took 40 minutes to free Mrs Grace Howard, of Staines, Middlesex, from her flattened Ford Escort. Firemen spread a

blanket of foam waist-high down 100 yards of the street. Police toured with loudhailers warning people to switch off all electrical appliances and not to light any naked flames. Fifteen fire appliances and a fleet of ambulances were called out.

Fumes from the spill fuel, which could be smelt nearly a mile away, were blamed for an explosion which blew out doors and damaged windows at the Old Manor House Inn, a quarter of a mile from the scene. It was thought flames had leaked into the cellar through the drains and were ignited by a pilot light on a gas boiler.

The petrol tanker, which was pulling into a filling station to make a delivery when it mounted a pavement and

overturned, was carrying a full load of 26,000 litres of petrol and 7,000 litres of diesel. Most of the fuel was spilt, some leaking into the Thames in spite of the efforts of 70 firemen to contain it.

The Thames Water Authority had emergency teams with large booms sweeping the fuel from the surface of the river. It assured householders that water supplies would not be affected.

Clearing up continued for most of the day. Mrs Howard, aged 55, was taken to St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey, with minor neck injuries. She was later allowed home. The driver of the tanker, Mr Michael Wright, aged 45, of Cheam, south-east London, was uninjured.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

A trip to Jordan for artist

A retired inspector of schools is one of two winners who share the Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Bruce Hurn, aged 61, of Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, south-east London, is an artist. He said: "I have recently returned from a visit to Israel and I have been using drawings I did there for paintings."

"On the strength of that I am planning to study the landscape and architecture of Jordan." Part of the £2,000 prize will go towards the trip.

Mr Hurn, who is married with four children, said he had been playing the competition for more than a year and would use some of the money for family presents.

The other winner is Mrs. Queenie Humphries, of Cameron Road, Bromley, south-east London.

Attack charge

Barry Pepper, aged 48 and his son, Lee, aged 20, appeared in before Canterbury magistrates yesterday after the death of a man aged 56 who died two days after being attacked while walking his dog. The men, from Herne Bay, have been charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

Bombs hoard

A retired bomb disposal expert hid more than 600lb of high explosives in his home on a caravan site at Golden Cross, near Hailsham, East Sussex. His son found the arsenal on Saturday after the man died, police said yesterday.

Computer debut to aid jury

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

In a pioneering experiment, the jury in the Brink's Mat case is having the complexities of the alleged laundering of the robbery proceeds explained by computer.

The jury will watch what the prosecution claims was the flow of the money from the gold taken in the robbery using computer graphics shown on 21 colour monitors around the courtroom. A microcomputer has been installed in the courtroom to control the displays.

The Crown Prosecution Service sees the Brink's Mat case as the start of what is likely to

be the regular use of computer technology to help juries to understand the nature of some cases, especially those involving fraud.

In some trials the bulk of the evidence may be presented in the form of full-colour, computer-generated graphics, which are far easier to comprehend than the mass of paperwork normally offered to juries.

Mr Barry Greene, of Wang (UK), the company which provided the computer for the trial, said greater use of computers could cut the

preparation time needed by counsel. "Cases can now come to court closer to the time of the alleged offences, which must be for the good of all concerned", he said.

The prosecution service and the Metropolitan Police are also investigating other ways of improving the presentation of evidence to juries.

In a trial under way at the Central Criminal Court involving an alleged mortgage fraud, the jury is being shown evidence in the form of "digitized" images, which makes the fine detail of the exhibits presented clear.

Fire test possible at King's Cross

By a Staff Reporter

The King's Cross Underground escalator fire may be repeated to try to establish what caused the fire which killed 31 people last November to spread so rapidly.

This emerged yesterday at the start of the tenth week of hearings by the official inquiry into the disaster after conflicting expert evidence on the role played by a special paint, Produrite, in the development of the fire.

Produrite had been applied to the ceiling of the Piccadilly line escalator shaft, where the fire broke out, and Mr Lionel Read, QC, for London Underground, told the inquiry that without a further fire test it was unlikely to be able to decide whether Produrite helped to cause the flashover.

London Underground said later that work was already in progress to replace the existing Piccadilly Line escalators in the burnt out shaft, so that a decision about staging a new fire could not be long delayed. But the decision would have to be carefully weighed and a fire carefully controlled.

The aim would be to create the conditions of last November's fire as closely as possible. The fact that the upper part of the shaft had already been burnt out would limit any risk of the fire spreading.

The purpose would be to obtain sufficient information to enable management to decide about the future treatment of escalator shafts. Because of the conflicting views of expert witnesses, London Underground did not have sufficiently reliable information on which to base future decisions. Produrite has been used in about a dozen central London stations, and about 20-30 station tunnels and about 20-30 station tunnels and about 20-30 station tunnels.

He criticized evidence from two experts consulted by the Underground, Dr Herbert Eisner and Mr David Tucker. "They jumped to the wrong conclusion without proper objective, scientific consideration and have since sought to justify those conclusions for reasons which are invalid."

"There are doubts about the objectivity and thoroughness with which both Dr Eisner and Mr Tucker approached their task", he said.

Mr Read had made it clear that the Underground did not necessarily accept the views expressed by the two scientists.

The hearing continues.

Potato top choice in vegetables

The potato was named yesterday as Britain's favourite food. The average person ate 244lb of potatoes each year, against a total of 84lb for all other vegetables.

Peas, 14lb, and carrots, 13lb, were the next most popular vegetable, while asparagus tipped the scales at just 2oz, costing an annual average of 12p.

The figures in *Produce 1988*, produced by the Food From Britain organization, showed beef and veal headed the meat table, with 42lb of the 135lb total. Poultry managed just under 28lb.

The average person drank 216 pints of milk a year and 1.5 pints of cream, and ate 157 eggs, almost 18lb of bacon and ham, 13lb of tomatoes and 65 loaves of bread. Fruit totalled 47lb.

More than 200 million cups of tea are consumed every day, compared with 100 million cups of coffee, according to the annual Nestle-Mintel report, published yesterday.

However, the ratio of cups of tea to coffee has fallen from six to one in 1968 to 2.09 to one. In the 15-24 age group, the ratio was 1.5 cups of tea to one cup of coffee.

Coffee sales reached £608 million last year, compared with £550 million on tea.

Concern over baby deaths

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A government inquiry has been urged into Britain's "patchy and underfunded" maternity services after a report showed wide differences in the provision of services and in infant mortality rates.

The survey, commissioned by the Opposition spokesman for health, Miss Harriet Harman, shows that although the number of births in every regional health authority is increasing, the number of maternity beds are being cut.

In the South-west Thames region, for example, the birth-rate increased by 6.3 per cent between 1981 and 1986 but during the same period the number of maternity beds were reduced by 29.1 per cent.

The survey shows that between 1981 and 1986 the number of live and still births rose from 602,102 to 626,946, while the number of maternity beds fell from 18,176 to 16,166. At the same time the number of special care baby unit costs dropped from 3,940 to 3,651.

The report also showed that perinatal and infant deaths were much higher in the North and, particularly the West Midlands than in the South, with the bulk of deaths occurring in the lower social classes.

West Midlands has 11 perinatal deaths a thousand births while East Anglia has only 7.7.

Miss Harman said ministers

should not be prepared to accept the differences in survival rates between babies born in different regions and in different social classes.

"It is intolerable that a baby born in the West Midlands is 30 per cent more likely to die in the first week than a baby born in East Anglia; and it is intolerable that a baby born to an unskilled manual worker is 50 per cent more likely to die within the first week than a baby born to a professional family."

In a letter to Mr Antony Newton, Minister of State for Health, Miss Harman describes antenatal services as inconvenient and unattractive.

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Tories bank on 'winning habit'

Poll tax key to campaign

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A few days before the Conservative local government conference last month the Downing Street Prime Minister, unlike in the past when she had spoken informally to councillors and candidates, wanted to address the conference.

A space in the programme was found, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher surprised with a speech in which she urged them to go out and fight in the May 5 elections on her third-term programme, the community charge or poll tax.

She called the charge the "ready reckoner" by which people would be able to judge for the first time exactly how local authorities were spending their money. "We should welcome that because Conservative councils are careful with people's money. Conservative councils are good managers. It is Labour authorities who have to be rate-capped because they spend other people's money like water," she said.

According to party strategists, Mrs Thatcher's early intervention, along with her effectively simple description of the charge, galvanized the local campaign. Nervousness about the effects of the poll tax in the elections has been replaced by a determination to turn it to the party's advantage.

When they open the Tory campaign tomorrow, Mr Peter Brooke, the party chairman, and Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, are expected to emphasize that the votes people cast this May and next will determine the level of community charge they pay when the system is introduced.

Post general election fervour has been

slow to dampen in many parts of the Conservative empire. Reports from some of the regions reaching Central Office suggest there is more enthusiasm about the local elections than ever before.

In spite of the poll tax and other controversial policies on education, housing and changes to the benefit system, there is real confidence in the Conservative camp that the party will make substantial net gains on May 5, an un-

Tory strategists believe that both the current uncertainty in the Alliance parties, and the likely advance of Labour in some Alliance-held seats, could help them. The other big difference is the Tory position in the opinion polls.

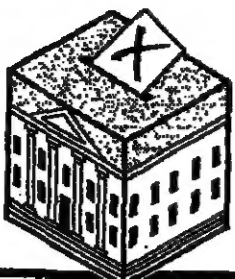
A year after the 1983 general election, the Tories' national lead was rapidly being wiped out; according to last weekend's MORI poll for Times Newspapers Limited, the Conservatives still held a 9 per cent lead over Labour.

Conservative campaigners have high hopes of advance in three metropolitan districts in the North-west, Salford, Wirral and Trafford, and the cities of Derby, Southampton and Bristol. However, their biggest prize would be to end Labour's overall control of Birmingham.

Such is the enthusiasm among Tory strategists that they are already looking forward to next year's county council elections, when they believe they have good chances of denting the former Alliance parties in Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire and Cambridgeshire and Labour-Alliance link-ups in Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Oxfordshire.

The Conservatives accept that Labour has been running effective campaigns in areas where they can allege that the poll tax will produce more losers than gainers.

However, strategists expect that as usual local issues will predominate. Although ministers will make visits to the regions to speak, it is being treated as a local rather than national campaign with Central Office providing guidance and back-up material to candidates on national issues. For many local Tory offices, the elections will present the first opportunity to use new computer systems.



1988 LOCAL ELECTIONS

sual feat in the first year after a general election when popularity tends to ebb.

There appear to be good grounds for that expectation. In almost 300 council by-elections since the general election, the Conservatives have made a net gain of 27. Normally such gains continue for about three months after an election. This time they have gone on for 10 months, without any sign of faltering.

At stake this year are the seats last fought in 1984, which was a good year for Labour and a poor one for the Conservatives who lost 131 seats. But then, too, the Alliance made big advances.

Dressing up for charity



Stepping out at the Savoy Hotel, London, yesterday before the annual Berkeley Dress Show in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children were (from left) Miss Claire Lindsay, Miss Matty Eyres and Miss Sarah Dawney (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Students' union will fight to keep grant

Students in higher education will fight plans to replace grants with loans, their union leader said yesterday.

Miss Vicky Phillips, president of the National Union of Students, told its spring conference in Blackpool that the "right to learn" had been attacked by the "ideology of student loans and the hidden agenda of the Education Reform Bill".

The Government had laid siege to the grants system since 1979, Miss Phillips said.

"It has tried by continual reductions to starve students into submission; into accepting loans."

"The message from this conference must be that it will not succeed."

"Moreover, the message from students, their parents, colleges and trade unionists must, next term, be it will not, and cannot succeed."

The spirit of besieged students remains strong and determined to resist the introduction of loans.

Miss Phillips said that the entitlement of students to benefits had been eroded by "April Fool's Day benefit changes", and that the freedom to associate, participate and organize had been threatened by "cynical, politically motivated attempts to destroy the NUS".

Plea for passage of Bill on safety

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Leading consumer, environmental and safety organizations are calling on the Government to stop opposing a Bill which they say could help to avoid disasters.

The Bill would establish public registers of enforcement notices served on premises failing to meet requirements under safety, fire and environmental legislation.

The Campaign for Freedom of Information says that at present such notices are kept secret and no public warning about danger is given. "The Government did not openly oppose the Bill when it was first introduced in February, but arranged for it to be surreptitiously 'talked out' by Conservative backbenchers."

The campaign has joined the Consumers Association, the British Safety Council, Friends of the Earth, the Conservation Trust and the Institution of Environmental Health Officers in writing to Mr Patrick Nicholas, a junior employment minister, asking him to ensure that no obstacle is placed in the way of the Environment and Safety Information Bill, which is being reintroduced in the Commons by Mr Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, on April 15.

In a separate letter, Mr Steve Norris, who until last year was Conservative MP for Oxford East and is now co-chairman of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, has called on the minister to consider his original stand.

Mr Norris questions the grounds on which the Department of the Environment and the Home Office, objected to the Bill.

He says the Bill would barely affect the Department of the Environment, whose air pollution inspectorate issues no more than half a dozen notices a year; and the Home Office's view that the Bill would be too expensive is "far fetched", he adds.

The principal organization affected, the Health and Safety Commission, whose inspectors issue about 8,000 notices a year, has said it has no objection to the Bill.

At present, the public has no right to see notices served when there is an asbestos or pesticide hazard, fire risk or danger of chemical explosion, the Campaign for Freedom of Information says. This secrecy makes it easier for firms to drag their feet over complying.

The Factory Inspectorate prosecutes more than 100 firms each year for not acting on notices, the campaign says.

Judge clears care team in dryer case

A judge yesterday cleared social workers who failed to enter on their "at risk" register a boy aged two after his mother had put him in a tumble dryer, switched it on and watched him spin round.

Judge Hopkin, who had called for an inquiry by Nottinghamshire Social Services Department, said at Nottingham Crown Court that he was satisfied social workers had taken a considerable amount of care.

He said: "Between April 10 and June 22 last year visits were made to the family on at least 11 occasions. In addition a health visitor went there at least twice."

"It is perfectly clear that the social services were showing a considerable degree of care, keeping a very close eye on what was happening."

"That is a most satisfactory state of affairs and they have

to be commended. The child perhaps received more supervision than if he had been put on the register."

When the case was tried last month the judge ordered the inquiry, saying he found it "quite strange" that the child was not put on the register after police had decided to prosecute the mother.

The boy's mother aged 25, of Digby, Lincolnshire, was convicted of ill-treating her son by putting him in the tumble dryer. The prosecution said she rolled on the floor laughing as the boy spun round several times.

The mother, a nursing assistant, married to an RAF officer, was also found guilty of assaulting her son, causing him actual bodily harm. She is serving an 18-month sentence in solitary confinement after threats from other prisoners.

Historian 'stole' 2,000 war books

A Second World War historian's "obsession with books" led him to stealing from the Imperial War Museum, a court was told yesterday.

Mr Matthew Cooper, aged 36, stole 2,000 books and documents while working as a student librarian at the museum; he was found out when, guilt-ridden, he tried to return the books under a false name, it was alleged.

Mr Cooper, who is a history PhD and author of 14 novels and four historic works, also took translations of the Nuremberg war crimes trials from the widow of the late Sir Basil Liddell Hart, Inner London Crown Court was told.

Miss Anne Rafferty, for the prosecution, said: "His conscience effectively became more and more guilt ridden. What he then faced was the difficulty of how to return the

books without finding himself talking to the police. He later told officers that books were almost an obsession for him."

Mr Cooper persuaded a friend to return the books in a hired van, it was said. He wrote a letter claiming they were being given to the museum in the will of a Mr Roberts, of Suffolk.

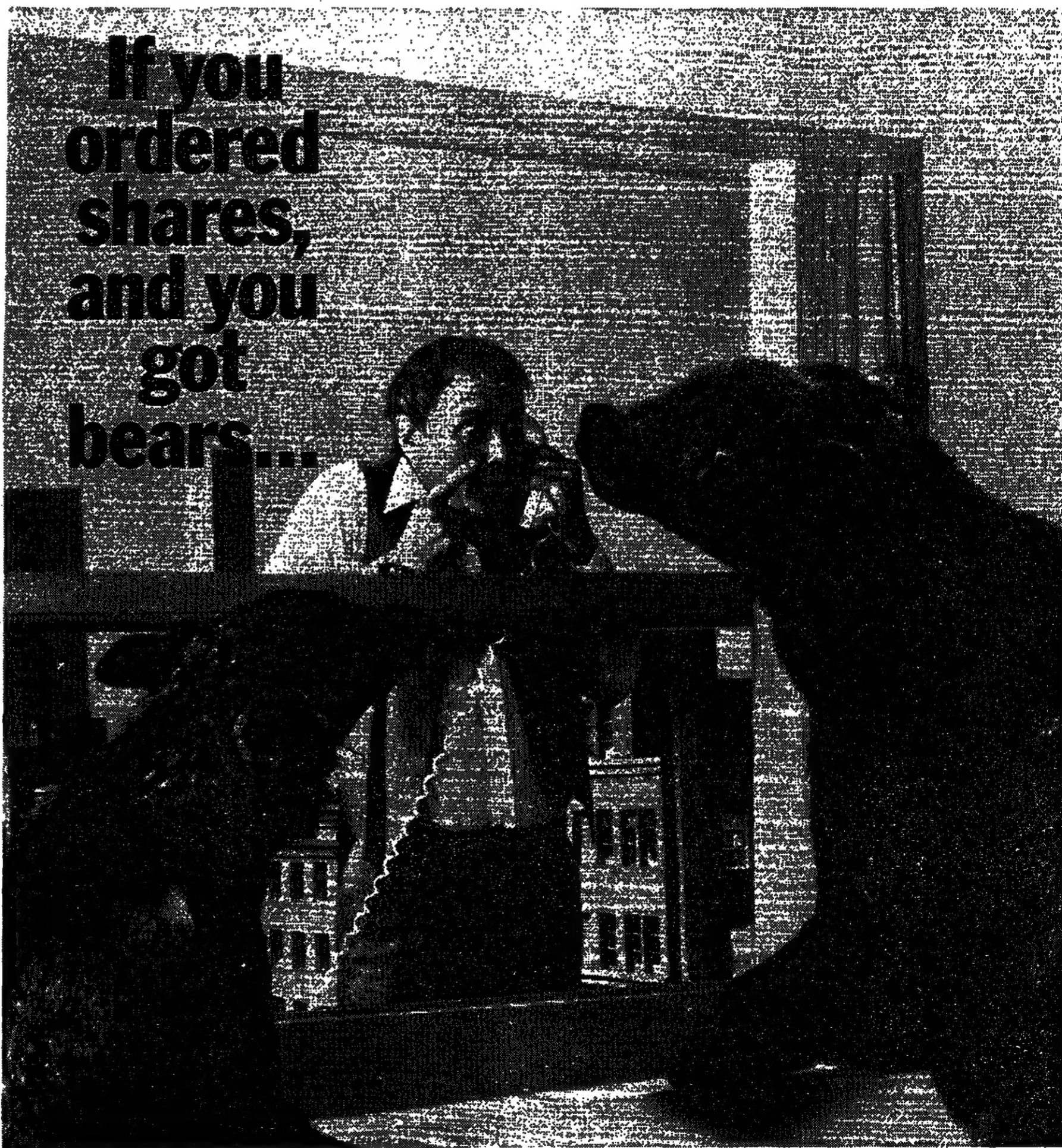
Some of the books, though, still had Imperial War Museum stamps; Mr Cooper's name or initials in them; and boxes bore his father's home address.

Mr Cooper also allegedly tried to return 58 books in the same way to King's College, London University, which he allegedly stole while studying for his PhD.

Mr Cooper, of King Henry's Road, Hampstead, north-west London, denies three charges of theft.

The trial continues today.

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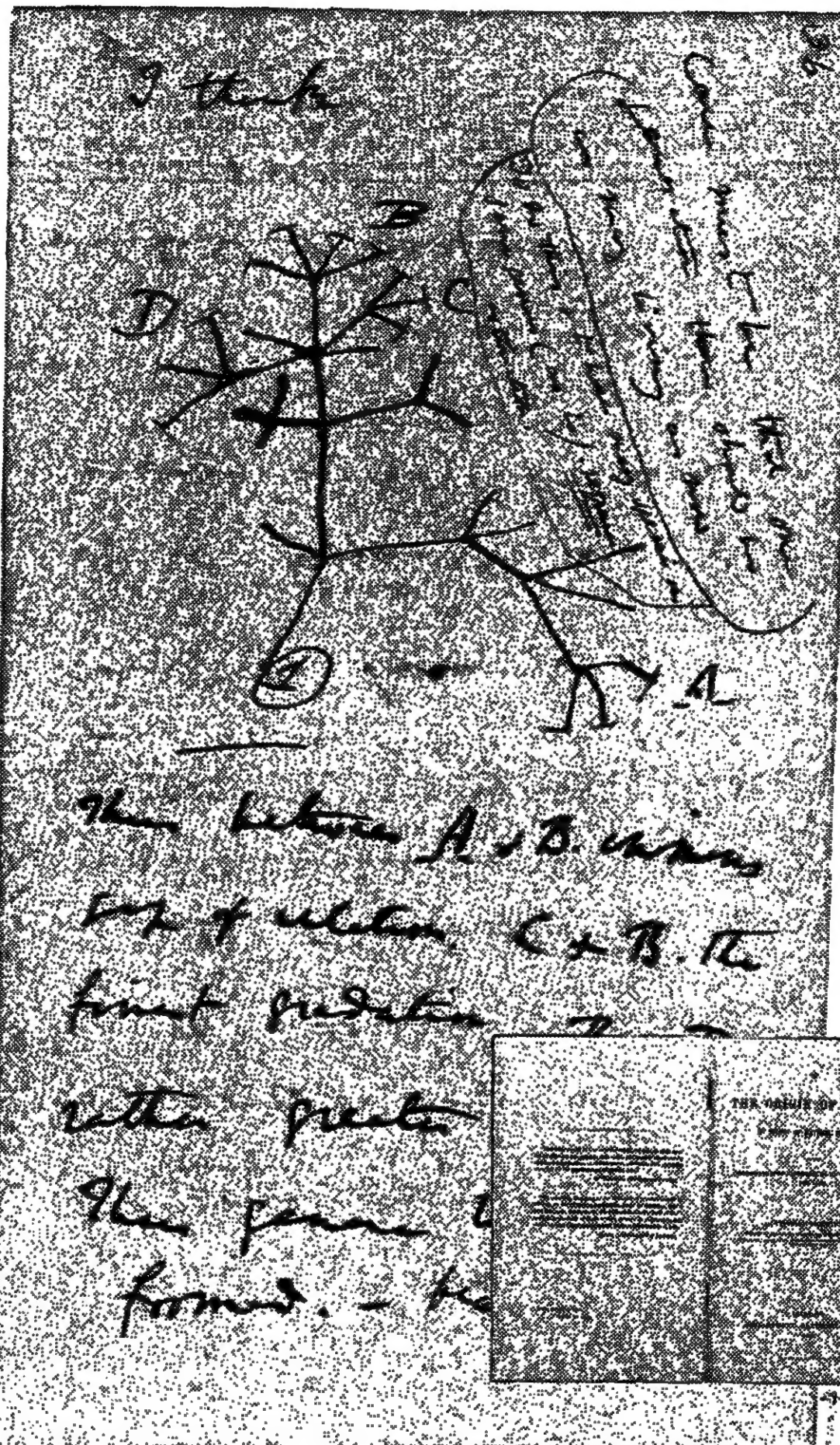
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WORLD ROUNDUP

US scholar took Lincoln papers

Boston (AP) — A scholar was convicted yesterday of transporting stolen historic documents, including letters from Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, that belonged to the National Archives and the Library of Congress. Charles Merrill Mount, aged 59, was charged with interstate transportation of stolen goods. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 (£270,000) fine.

Mount, a former Guggenheim Foundation fellow, insisted that the documents he sold to a Boston bookshop were his. Mount was not charged with theft, although Assistant US Attorney Martin Murphy said yesterday that he had taken the papers and removed identifying marks.

Panama plea for cash

Miami — Panama's cash-starved Government has appealed to Latin American nations for a supply of dollar notes to break the US stranglehold on its economy (Alan Tomlinson writes). The call comes amid growing concern among Panamanians that President Reagan's use of financial means to try to oust the country's military strongman, General Manuel Noriega, may inflict permanent damage.

The Finance Minister, Señor Ricaurte Vázquez, has written to the Latin American Economic System (Sela), into cash so that its banking system can reopen. Sela last month failed to respond to an earlier Panamanian request to form a temporary clearing house for its banks.

Steelworkers protest

Bonn — About 200 steel workers blocked a bridge over the Rhine at Düsseldorf during the morning rush hour yesterday to protest against the planned closure of a Krupp steel plant at Duisburg-Rheinhausen in the Ruhr, with the loss of 5,300 jobs (John England writes).

The men then staged a demonstration outside the North Rhine-Westphalia state Parliament, where Herr Johannes Rau, the Prime Minister, told a delegation that he was prepared to act as a mediator between the works council and management if his services would be accepted. Herr Rau denied reports that his Social Democratic Government had pressed for the early closure of the plant. The protests shut the plant, but the men are expected to return to work today.

UN goes to court

The Hague (Reuters) — The United Nations has urged the International Court of Justice in The Hague to intervene in a dispute over the attempt by the United States to close the PLO's United Nations mission. Mr Carl-August Fleischhauer, UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, yesterday asked the court to declare that the United States was obliged to accept arbitration in the dispute under its 1947 Headquarters Agreement with the UN.

A US anti-terrorism law passed by Congress in December, called for the PLO mission to be closed. The US Justice Department filed a suit in the federal district court last month to close the mission after PLO officials refused to comply with the new law.

Mecca protest urged

Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, yesterday urged Iranian pilgrims to ignore Saudi pleas and demonstrate in Mecca on this year's Muslim pilgrimage "against infidels, America and Israel" (Hazhir Teimourizian writes).

The Ayatollah said at his Tehran home that he hoped 150,000 Iranians would make the pilgrimage, starting at the beginning of July. This is three times the number of Iranians that the Saudi authorities have said they will allow in. Riots involving Iranian pilgrims last year cost 402 lives.

Peking beauty stakes

Peking (Reuters) — Peking is planning to hold its first beauty contest since the communist takeover, the China Daily newspaper said yesterday. The Communist Party has always frowned on such events as decadent. Several hundred women are expected to compete for 10 titles in the televised "Girls of Youth and Beauty" contest scheduled for June. They will be judged as much on their knowledge, singing and dancing ability, and moral character as on beauty, the organizers said. If the event is a success there may be similar contests for young men and middle-aged people.

Mont St Michel rescue

Saving an island from a sea of mud

From Philip Jacobson, Mont St Michel

As the first waves of spring tourists converge on the world-famous attraction of Mont St Michel off the coast of Normandy, the French Government has authorized the next stage of a £25 million project to prevent the island from being left high and dry.

The rescue operation for a site that draws more than 1.5 million visitors to the region each year is designed to reverse the relentless silting up of the lovely bay that has already affected local tides so drastically that only one in every 10 now rises to cut off the rocky mount with its towering medieval abbey from the mainland at the other end of its narrow causeway.

The result is now all too visible. On an average day, Mont St Michel lies in the centre of an expansive stretch of bleak mud flats with a covering of vegetation on which flocks of sheep, destined to become the much sought after salt-lamb of the area, are grazing.

Another three or four years of receding waters, and France's biggest tourist attraction outside Paris, listed by Unesco as one of the treasures of the world, could well have lost contact with the sea for ever.

That would spell ruin for the island's couple of hundred residents who reap a rich harvest from the crowds flocking here during the summer (a beach car park can accommodate 450,000 vehicles).

The view of Mont St Michel that they would prefer the outside world to hold is that of the pictures in the countless tatty tourist shops that line the steep ascent to the Abbey, a mysterious fastness scoured by the huge, racing tides that once made it the country's most notorious jail for political offenders.

As the islanders see it, farmers are to blame for the problems. A century or more of systematic dyking and diversion to prevent tides sweeping away the huge deposits of sediment, and assiduous land reclamation has yielded some 500 acres of fertile soil.

Thanks to a combination of

man and nature, this "new" arable land continues to expand literally almost daily. The 100-year-old causeway which was once lashed by great storms has risen so steadily on the undisturbed sediment around it that the main coach park (capacity 50,000 vehicles) is now below the old mooring rings.

Local farmers, not surprisingly, take a radically different view of things. The dykes and dams that cover the flat lands behind Mont St Michel are, they insist, vital for flood prevention. The extra grazing land produced is simply an bonus. In any case, they mutter, why should the handful of people doing very nicely from tourism for barely a third of the year impose their views on the mainland?

Caught between the two lobbies, the Government has opted for an elaborate and expensive scheme to create a network of reservoirs and tidal basins along the Couesnon river running to the west of the mount. The aim is to recreate the vast "flushing" movement the tides once had and to sweep great quantities of the sediment back out to sea.

Extensive study by French experts suggests that this can be achieved without the risk of disastrous flooding of the mainland or even sweeping away the reclaimed terrain. Preliminary work is to begin at the end of 1988 and will continue for about five years.

Neither the local farmers nor Mont St Michel's traders are happy with the outcome, though it is hard to see how else both could have been at least partially satisfied. One sensitive issue remains: what will happen to the causeway?

As things stand, it will interfere significantly with the proposed free flow of water around the mount. Among suggestions being considered, with great enthusiasm on the seaward side, is a graceful wooden bridge or a brand new tunnel through which 21st-century visitors would glide on electric carriages to discover the marvels of the sacred island.

Hijack murder according to the clock

From Robert Fisk Larnaca

There was an awesome familiarity about it all in which only for a second — when the body was pushed from the doorway — could one grasp the terrible thing that was happening. One of the hijackers had warned earlier that there would be another killing, but had then chatted on to the control tower about fuel tonnage and aviation spirit for flight KU 422 like a trainee pilot at a flying school. It was thus all the more shocking when the door of the great Boeing swung open.

First we saw two legs dangling from the aircraft, then the trunk of some indistinguishable figure bending forward. Someone must have been pushing the dead man; perhaps he was heavy, for he dropped from the aircraft like a sack and bounced on the tarmac beneath. Murder had come according to the clock; trapped by their own expired deadline, framing their deed with the rhetoric of amateur lawyers, the gunmen on the Kuwaiti jet had participated again in their own grisly theatre.

The cameras captured the fall, the moment of impact, the body lying in a helpless, spread-out way, the man's *galiberya* robe blowing up above his bare knees in breeze so that he lay there like a woman.

There was a silence in which all

somehow took part. The cameras stopped, the control tower officials stared through binoculars at the form below the aircraft. The hijackers maintained radio silence. It was all of 10 minutes before a Cypriot voice could be heard, coldly, almost indifferently questioning an unusual object on the runway — as if a vehicle had been inexpertly parked on the apron.

"We have seen something on the ground by the aircraft," the voice said innocently. "Can you give us any information?" There was only a brief pause. The hijackers must have been waiting for this moment. When a voice came back from the flight deck of the plane, it was hard, confident. The words were partly couched in pseudo-legal language. The 10 minutes' silence had obviously been employed by the hijackers in preparing their literary endeavour.

"Statement from hijackers of KU 422," he began unnecessarily. "We hereby announce to the Kuwaiti and Cypriot governments that we executed a Kuwaiti officer and this is due to the wish of the Cypriot Government which had decided to support the criminal countries against the people looking for freedom..." The hijackers enjoy the use of the word "hereby" — they had used it several times already; the

voice carried no irony when it phrased the word "execute". The phrase "criminal countries" long ago entered the lexicon of Shia Muslim political philosophy in Beirut. The clichés made the statement all the more awful. Every few seconds, the voice would stop; "Go ahead," the control tower would urge. And the hijacker went on: "As broadcast by news agencies, we also reconfirm that the craft would be refuelled immediately before we take more dangerous steps."

In retrospect, it was probably inevitable. The voice had been growing harsher during the morning, arguing in an irritated nervous fashion about the method of transport which the PLO negotiators should use to reach the aircraft. He should walk to the plane from the control tower. He should drive half the way and then walk. In the end, Mr Malaz Abdo drove all the way.

The control tower had warned the hijackers that when they talked over the radio "others might listen". Indeed they might, not just the hundreds of journalists in the airport terminal with their VHF radios but the less public men across the Mediterranean in Lebanon who could listen to the drama live in their own more powerful sets in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

The hijackers' pattern of speech

was sometimes hesitant, often unframed, frequently injected with artificial confidence. The first sign that something was snapping aboard the plane came after more requests for fuel at 10.10. "In the name of Allah, the most merciful," the voice began — and it became clear that this little speech had been written in advance — "we have already given the Cyprus Government and Kuwait officials our good intentions and enough time, but they think we are weak and hesitating."

Kuwait had refused to respond to their request. Cyprus would not refuel the aircraft. "We hereby announce that we insist on having the fuel within one hour only, otherwise there will be another reading."

"Another reading". It was a phrase that was likely to be remembered. A Koranic reading was what he meant, for those about to die. There were more demands for fuel, 104 tons of it, and a threat that if refuelling did not begin within an hour "we will kill a personality related to the unjust Kuwait regime". Most people thought this must refer to one of the three members of the Kuwait royal family aboard the aircraft. But it did not. There was more talking about fuel, and then the voice came back from the cockpit, his words enunciated

angrily. "This is the final extension — either after 30 minutes we receive the fuel or you receive the corpse."

"Thank you," the control tower replied automatically. The hijackers must have gone on discussing their forthcoming action, but they talked again about the tonnage of fuel. But then the aircraft door opened.

"Shall we send the ambulance to pick up the corpse before you read the message again?" the control tower asked. The voice seemed tired this time. Work had to go on at Larnaca airport. The voice from the aircraft was wide awake, the words spoken quickly, still breathless after the act which had taken place. "Okay — okay," it said. "Send the ambulance."

PARIS: Negotiations for the release of the three remaining French hostages held in Lebanon were on a knife edge last night as the hijack saga continued (Philip Jacobson writes). The worst fears of the authorities here were confirmed at the weekend by threats from the Islamic Jihad group in Beirut to kill their foreign captives if an attempt was made to storm the jet.

Hopes had been high that, after days of bargaining with the kidnappers of M Marcel Fontaine and M Marcel Carton, both diplomats, and the journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, a settlement was in sight.

Israel expels eight Palestinian agitators

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday expelled eight Palestinians to Lebanon and is planning to expel another 12, the Army said.

The eight, five from the West Bank and three from the Gaza Strip, were described as having played a leading role in fomenting unrest in the Israeli occupied territories during the past four months.

Israel Radio reported that they were taken by helicopter to the northern edge of the Israeli-controlled security zone, put in taxis and sent into Lebanese territory. They were allowed to take only a couple of plastic bags with some personal items.

Among the eight deported was Abdel Aziz Odeh, aged 38, who is regarded by Israeli security authorities as spiritual leader of the Islamic Jihad — Palestinian guerrilla movement. He is a lecturer at Gaza's Islamic University, where his arrest in November sparked student riots.

The others deported are: Furayy Ahmed, Khalil Khayri, aged 39, vice-chairman of the Engineers' Union in the Gaza Strip, who served several jail terms for activity in Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, the mainstream wing of the PLO;

Adil Bashir Nafa Hamad, aged 27, of Kalandia refugee

camp near Ramallah, West Bank, who was sentenced in 1983 for incitement and hostile propaganda and scheduled then for deportation. He founded the local section of the Fatah youth movement Shabiba, outlawed by Israel last month;

Muhammed Abu Samara, aged 26, from Gaza, a student at the Islamic University, who

was expelled from the West Bank, a student at an-Najah University in Nablus, who was serving a five-year jail sentence for membership of the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Jamal Shatti Hindi, aged 30, from Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, an ex-prisoner and student leader accused of

injunction it had issued against demolition of any further houses in Beit. But it ordered that villagers be given 48 hours' notice and an opportunity to appeal against any demolition order before it was carried out.

The ruling came in response to a petition lodged on Sunday by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel, which argued that the drastic and irreversible nature of the punishment made it imperative that the Beit villagers were protected against false incrimination.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that the Army has admitted that at least one of 14 houses — allegedly belonging to villagers who took part in Wednesday's confrontation — was demolished on the basis of false testimony. The villagers will be compensated, the radio said.

The new ruling gives villagers an opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court, making the demolition of homes no longer the sole discretion of the Army.

The settlers yesterday met the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, in an effort to defuse heightened tension between themselves and the Army over their differing accounts of how an Israeli girl and two villagers died at Beit.

being leader of the Shabiba youth movement at an-Najah University.

The 12 Palestinians against whom the Army issued expulsion orders yesterday include six from the West Bank village of Beit, allegedly involved in Wednesday's bloody confrontation with the group of Israeli settlers in the village.

They have the right to appeal against their expulsion, first to a standing army committee and if that upholds the orders served on them, to the Supreme Court in Jerusalem.

The Supreme Court yesterday lifted the interim

has been arrested and sentenced four times for anti-Israeli activities.

Khalil Kuka, aged 39, of Gaza city, a teacher employed by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, who served as imam of the mosque in the Shati refugee camp with the group of Israeli settlers in the village.

They have the right to appeal against their expulsion, first to a standing army committee and if that upholds the orders served on them, to the Supreme Court in Jerusalem.

The Supreme Court yesterday lifted the interim

Violence wanes in East Jerusalem but shopkeepers deny strike is crumbling

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

There have been growing signs in recent weeks that, in Arab East Jerusalem at least, the four-month-old Palestinian uprising is beginning to run out of steam.

Few incidents are now reported, encouraging Israel's over-extended police force to announce that it is reducing significantly its presence both in East Jerusalem and in the surrounding villages.

But while there has clearly been a fall-off in violent protest, the commercial strike in the city appears to be holding firm. Since December shopkeepers throughout the Arab half of the city have been observing meticulously a strike ordered by the leaders of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which allows them to open for business only between 9am and noon.

At noon the steel shutters

come down throughout the city. It is almost as though someone has issued a typhoon warning. Within half an hour, the normally bustling Saladin Road, the main commercial thoroughfare in the Arab half of the city as well as the usually teeming allies of the Old City, are all but deserted.

The Israelis have lately been trying to convey the impression that the strike may be starting to crumble. The usually reliable Army radio station, Galzi Zahal, reported on Tuesday, for example, that shops in the Old City remained open throughout the day — a claim that merchants in the *souk* deny categorically.

They were certainly shut shortly after noon the next day, when there was a sign whatever of the Passover crowds the Army radio claimed were beginning to

throng back to the Old City. A few groups of Christian pilgrims, in the Holy Land for Easter, were seen wandering a little disconsolately through the shuttered alleyways.

There was also some petty commerce going on from trays or boxes in front of the shuttered stores — mostly fruit and vegetables or imported chocolate bars.

But there was no sign that the merchants are beginning to tire, as claimed by Mr Amir Heshin, adviser on Arab affairs to the Mayor, Mr Teddy Kollek, in an interview with the Army radio intended to back up his report.

"It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to call 3,500 merchants out on a strike that is going to cripple them," Mr Heshin said, "especially when they perceive that it is they, the shopkeepers on the pave-

ment, who are being made to bear the full brunt of the struggle while others, like lawyers and so on in the offices above them, carry on as usual."

He also mentioned the possible disaffection of the shopkeepers as the result of a rumour allegedly making the rounds in East Jerusalem, that one merchant entrusted with a large sum of money by leaders of the uprising to distribute to needy businesses, had kept it for himself.

Such suggestions are laughed off. "Nonsense," said Amad, who runs a coffee shop in the *souk*. "Of course it's tough, and we are losing money. But we can hold out indefinitely — for years if we need to. No one is starving, and people are always ready to help others in worse shape than themselves."

Cuomo wipes his name from Democratic slate

From Charles Bremner, New York

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York yesterday tried to lift the long shadow he has cast over the confused Democratic presidential field by stating for the first time that he would not accept a draft to become candidate, even if the party asked him.

Mr Cuomo, who is widely seen as his party's most eligible potential president, spoke out after a weekend of confusion over his plans as the real candidates fought to impress the big Jewish electorate in his home state a week ahead of the primary election here.

Asked by *The New York Times* if he would refuse to accept a draft, Mr Cuomo replied: "Yes. You're absolutely correct. That's accurate. Now I hope there are no questions left about my role."

The Cuomo statement was good news for Mr Michael Dukakis, the Governor of Massachusetts, although an endorsement would have been a lot more welcome. Despite his continuing failure to bridge what the media call

"the passion gap" — his inability to inspire enthusiasm — Mr Dukakis has reassured himself as campaign front-runner, according to opinion polls and the political pundits.

Mr Jackson, whose passion is his big asset, fixed his position on Mr Arafat after local Jewish leaders and Mayor Edward Koch made it clear that he had not been forgiven his anti-Jewish remarks in 1984 and the 1979 meeting at which he embraced the PLO chief.

He said that if elected President, he would not nego-

tiate with Mr Arafat and that the PLO should accept Israel's right to exist. Mr Koch, the most vocal Democratic critic of the black leader, immediately accused him of "fudging" his views "to convince people that he shouldn't be afraid of his positions on Israel".

Mr Albert Gore, the distant underdog from Tennessee, is using the Jackson-Arafat embrace to help him woo the Jewish vote, which usually accounts for 25 per cent of the Democratic turnout in the state.

He said that if elected President, he would not nego-

He spent the weekend hopping from one Passover celebration to another, basking in the approval of Jewish militants. "It's not that Jackson is black," said Rabbi Bernard Freilich of Brooklyn. "He could be white and we'd feel the exact same way. It's the statements that he's made. It's what he's done."

Mr Dukakis has not won much support from the Jewish leaders with his decision to observe the conventional wisdom that Mr Jackson's race makes it politically dangerous to attack his views.

Malta's knights break with past to elect a Scots leader

From Roger Boyes, Rome

A Briton has been elected Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for the first time since the days of the Crusaders.

The new leader of the Order — which has many of the trappings of an independent state — is a former schoolmaster, Mr Andrew Bertie, aged 59.

The elections, which have been

conducted in high secrecy in the Order's large villa overlooking Rome. The choice of a Scotsman — ending more than 50 years of Italian monopoly — was by no means unanimous.

Many of the Italians, who form a

substantial minority of the 36 electors, wanted a fellow countryman. And there was support, too, for the Grand Prior of Bohemia.

Mr Bertie was backed by the

United States — including the multi-millionaire Mr Peter Grace, who sits on the electoral council — and others concerned that the Order had become too lax and too concerned with ceremonies.

Insiders say that Mr Bertie will bring in more "professed knights" — that is those who adhere to monastic vows — to give the Order a stricter discipline. But at the same time he is said to be open to expanding the Order's influence overseas and to

establishing new diplomatic missions overseas.

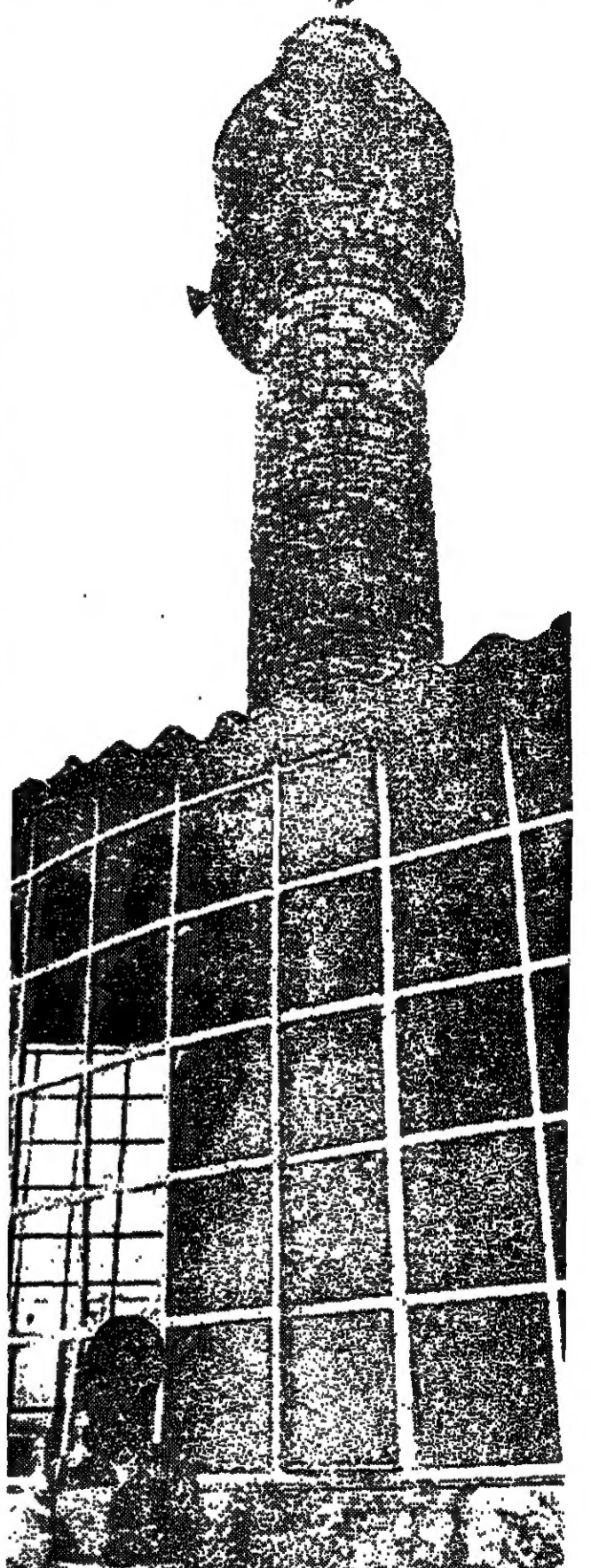
Mr Bertie, a relative of the Earl of Lindsey and Abingdon and a member of one of the longest established Catholic families in Britain, used to teach modern languages at a Benedictine school in Worth. When his work for the Order (such as organizing pilgrimages) became too much, he resigned and moved to Malta. The Nationalist Party Government in Malta — which has invited the Order back to the island — is overjoyed.

Mr Bertie was educated at Ampleforth and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read modern

history. He is multilingual (German, French, Spanish, Russian and Tibetan, to name just a few), and was able to win the confidence of many of the Order's Italian, Spanish and German staff.

Vatican sources say that the Pope, himself a foreigner running a primarily Italian bureaucracy, has high hopes that he will be able to revive some of the priestly aspects of the sprawling charity organization. The Italian Knights are already speaking of Mr Bertie as a hardliner and fear a radical shake-up.

Mr Bertie is the first British Grand Master of the Order since Hugh de Revel, who held the post in



An Arab boy standing outside the mosque in Beit Ummar in the West Bank. Villagers claim that all its windows were smashed by Israeli soldiers using a marble-shooting cannon.

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Pakistan Army blamed for storing weapons too close to city

Zia tries to stem outrage at arms blast

From Edward Gorman, Islamabad

President Zia moved quickly yesterday to head off growing public outrage over the disaster at an ammunition dump on the edge of Islamabad which sent thousands of rockets and shells into residential areas, killing 93 people.

He arrived here in the early hours of yesterday morning from the Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait. After touring the disaster area at Faisalabad, just four miles from the centre of Islamabad, he told a packed press conference at the Presidential Palace that the Government and people of Pakistan should be rightly praised for the fortitude and spirit they had shown in the face of adversity.

"In the last 12 years I have never seen the people so united and appreciative of the efforts made by the Government," he said. "If a nation can display unity in a crisis it is rightly to be called a nation."

He said that 93 people had been killed on Sunday and 1,100 had been injured. Just over half of the injured had been discharged after treatment in hospital. Thirty-three people had died in central Islamabad, including Mr Khan Abbasia, a member of the National Assembly, whose car was hit by a rocket. At the ammunition dump, seven soldiers had been killed and 32 had been injured.

President Zia said that an inquiry would report within 10 days. Compensation would be paid to the families of those killed or seriously injured. He

also said that he would set aside an additional 50 million rupees (£1.6 million) to supplement compensation payments, which would also cover damage to property.

While displaying his characteristic "political sense in a crisis," the President left many questions unanswered. Although given two opportunities, he refused to confirm or deny reports that the dump at the G-7 army camp had been a holding store for American-supplied ammunition and weapons destined for the Afghan Mujahideen.

He added that it was still not clear whether the explosion had been the result of an accident, sabotage or simple negligence.

The President's praise for the Army and the Government will do little to assuage his critics. An editorial in the English-language *Muslim* newspaper — traditionally a moderately dissenting voice — summed up the mood of growing anger and outrage.

It criticized the Army roundly for allowing an ammunition dump to be sited so close to populated areas, adding that the strict rules for the movement and storage of explosives "were evidently observed in their breach".

There was also criticism of the media and the civil administration for being lamentably slow in reacting as the scale of the disaster became apparent.

President Najibullah of Afghanistan sent a message of "deep grief and sorrow" to President Zia and called the



Motorcycle riders trying to comfort a woman hurt by exploding ammunition in Islamabad.

explosions a tragic accident, Kabul Radio said.

At the scene of the disaster yesterday, thousands of unexploded shells still littered residential areas and fields close to the camp. Army demolition teams including, significantly, a US Navy bomb disposal unit, appeared to have made little headway in efforts to defuse and remove

rockets and bombs. Many residents had left for safety elsewhere, but there had still been no effective attempt to cordon off the worst affected areas. It was common to see families in their houses with live shells just yards away.

Fires at the main ammunition dump appeared to have been extinguished, but the situation clearly remains far

from stable, with the possibility of further explosions not yet discounted.

At Rawalpindi general hospital, half a mile from the camp, staff said they had treated 450 patients who had returned home. A further 140 people had been admitted, 62 of whom had serious operations. Twenty-two people died at the hospital.

Seoul dam will counter North's 'water bomb'

From Gavin Bell, Taebak Mountains, South Korea

At the end of a rough, dusty mountain road by the North Han River in central Korea, in a remote valley ringed by armed camps, a bizarre construction is in progress.

It is a massive dam, and its designers hope it will never be used. Its sole purpose is to counter the destructive potential of a similar project 12 miles to the north, across the Demilitarized Zone in North Korea.

The perceived threat is from a North Korean plan to dam the upper reaches of the river in the Kungangsan (Diamond) Mountains and create a reservoir of several billion metric tons of water. If that dam were ever breached — by accident or design — South Korea fears it would send a gigantic tidal wave roaring through the Han River basin and into Seoul, 80 miles away, with the devastating impact of a nuclear explosion.

A government booklet entitled *Water Bomb over Seoul* describes the effects of such a catastrophe. Five smaller dams downstream would be washed away, the capital would be inundated within 12 hours. Olympic stadia would be submerged and the lives of 15 million people imperilled.

Of more concern to defence chiefs, the torrent would also destroy key frontline installations and isolate three military corps north of the river.

Even in its early stages of construction, South Korea says, the dam could hold enough water to flood the main competition venues and athletes' village for the Seoul Olympics in September.

The booklet concludes: "It seems more than obvious the dam has been planned as a means of psychological pressure on the South in peacetime, and as a formidable weapon in wartime."

So it is that 1,600 South

Korean workers are labouring around the clock to erect a riverine Maginot Line. The vast pyramid of compressed granite will reach an initial height of 260 ft by next month, and may be increased to over 700 ft if necessary — almost twice the height of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt.

Mr Lee Hee Sung, the chief engineer, says that the North Koreans could build a tem-

makes no military sense to flood a potential invasion route.

"The North's motives are not clear," a senior diplomat said. "Whether they designed it as a water weapon will probably never be known, and the question is academic now the Peace Dam is in place."

Given the uncertainty, one might argue that the Korean conflict has risen to new heights of absurdity, with the Peace Dam a monument to paranoia. But Pyongyang's unpredictable regime has done nothing to inspire confidence by digging invasion tunnels beneath the DMZ and destroying a Korean Air jet with 115 people on board.

Its project ignores conventions on the sharing of international watercourses, and will reduce supplies to the South. It also threatens long-term ecological damage in the Taebak Mountains, a region of haunting beauty, and sites further downstream.

Irrespective of Pyongyang's intentions, South Korea is gravely concerned about the dam collapsing through human error or natural disaster. Its site is in the most earthquake-prone area of the Han River basin, on relatively weak limestone. Doubts are expressed about whether North Korea has the level of technical expertise and workmanship required.

Real or imagined, the threat has been enough to attract \$50 million (about £26.5 million) in a fund-raising campaign for the Peace Dam.

Mr Lee concludes: "We believe there is a high probability of dam failure at Kungangsan, and nobody can say they will not breach it deliberately. If there is even one chance in a million of that dam bursting, we must construct a defensive barrier. It would be suicidal not to."



Tokyo looks to Europe for renewed friendship

Japan is determined to build up its relations with Western Europe as a central feature of its international policy. This was what I was told time and again throughout a week of discussions in Tokyo with politicians, officials and others outside government.

It gives particular point to the visit that Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, will be paying to London and other European capitals next month.

The Western community depends, so the line goes, on the triangular relationship between the United States, Western Europe and Japan. But the weak link in the triangle up to now has been between Europe and Japan.

Whether it is best to look at Japan's foreign policy in trilateral terms like this is questionable. It leaves out of account its relations with its Asian neighbours, which must always be critical.

Warning signs in early INF talks

But this is how the advance to Europe is presented in Tokyo, and the policy itself is a development of some importance. I am not suggesting that the links with Europe can ever rival the American connection, which shows no sign of weakening. But for the first time Japan is realising that it needs more than the United States.

In the first place, Japanese security interests will, so it is believed, be preserved better by taking a fuller part in the general Western defence dialogue than by concentrating exclusively on the American alliance. Indeed, the early negotiations over INF provided a warning of how easily



Geoffrey Smith

that could lead to Japanese interests being overlooked.

The final treaty, eliminating all medium-range missiles, satisfied Japan. But before that the United States had been prepared to accept that, while all INF should be removed from Europe, the Soviet Union should be allowed to keep a hundred missiles in Asia.

Japanese protests put a stop to that idea. But the episode was a reminder that Japanese and European security interests do not always coincide.

That is true of disarmament. It also applies when the United States is deciding how to apportion its troops and resources between Europe and Asia. So the Japanese feel that the more they are regarded as part of the Western defence community the more their voice is likely to be heard.

Second, they believe that Europe will be of increasing importance to them economically. That is partly because they expect the coming of the single European market in 1992 to provide an economic stimulus, and partly because they fear that it may discriminate more against those out-

side. Better, then, to have close links.

But the advance to Europe is also part of a wider trend. As Japan's economic power grows, so it is moving slowly and tentatively towards a broader political role. It is not quite sure yet how to do so. Throughout my week in Tokyo I became increasingly aware of the sharp contrast between Japan's economic confidence and its political diffidence.

It is conscious of being set apart from other nations.

Although it relies so heavily on the United States, it suspects that the Americans are really closer to Europe. Although it is an Asian country, it knows that any assertion of power would send shock waves of alarm throughout the region.

So there is an eagerness to reassure. Mr Takujiro Hamada, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, emphasised to me that Japan would

Consciousness of being set apart

not assume a global role and was already committed not to be a big military power.

Yet the more widely Japan extends its direct investment round the world — which is a key element of its new economic strategy — the more extensive will its political interests be.

So the quiet, piecemeal, limited extension of Japan's military capacity can be expected to continue. But it will all be done in as low a key as possible.

What we are seeing now are the first uncertain gropings as Japan stretches out beyond the political laager in which it has been willingly confined since the Second World War.

Cocaine charges bring Paris intellectuals to Sagan's side

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

There is only one place for the whole of Paris to be seen these days — on the petition supporting the author and playwright Françoise Sagan as she prepares to face charges of possessing cocaine.

The list of names published in the current issue of *Globe* magazine, compulsory reading for the capital's intellectual jet-set, ranges from the immensely distinguished French writer Marguerite Duras through prominent entertainers, actors and directors — Juliette Gréco, Jane Birkin, Jean-Claude Brialy — to social ever-presents like the model Inès de la Fressange and practising intellectuals (it is a full-time profession here) like Régis Debray.

Beneath what they clearly considered to be a daring and provocative headline demanding *Inculpée: nous avec Sagan* (ie, charge us too), these luminaries defiantly admitted

to smoking a bit of dope, indulging in the occasional snort of cocaine. Mind you, they are all anti-drug, all very down on drug dealers: the point is that they think Miss Sagan is being victimized, the only superstar to face prosecution in an affair which apparently involves some 30 other prominent people.

Miss Sagan thinks so too, attributing her problems to a right-wing conspiracy to do her down because she is an ardent supporter of M François Mitterrand in the coming presidential election. It seems that back in 1986, when she was openly backing the Socialist election cause, her apartment had been raided by the drug squad (nothing was found). "I thought it was just coincidence, but twice is too much," she said.

According to the organizer of the petition, a considerable personality called Pierre Ber-

gé, who is president of Yves Saint-Laurent and also contributes a column to *Globe* on "Politics and Style", Miss Sagan is a deeply sensitive and fragile human being.

This may not fit everybody's image of a talented lady who has never tried to conceal her bruising encounters with life in the shape of alcohol, gambling, the French tax authorities and more besides.

Since Miss Sagan herself (also a contributor to *Globe*) had nothing to do with preparation of the petition, and does not even know some of the signatories, she can hardly be blamed for that.

There is an irresistible footnote. When news of the petition broke in the press here, another 50 personalities rang M Berge to complain that they had not been given a chance to get their own names in print. Social death, don't you see.

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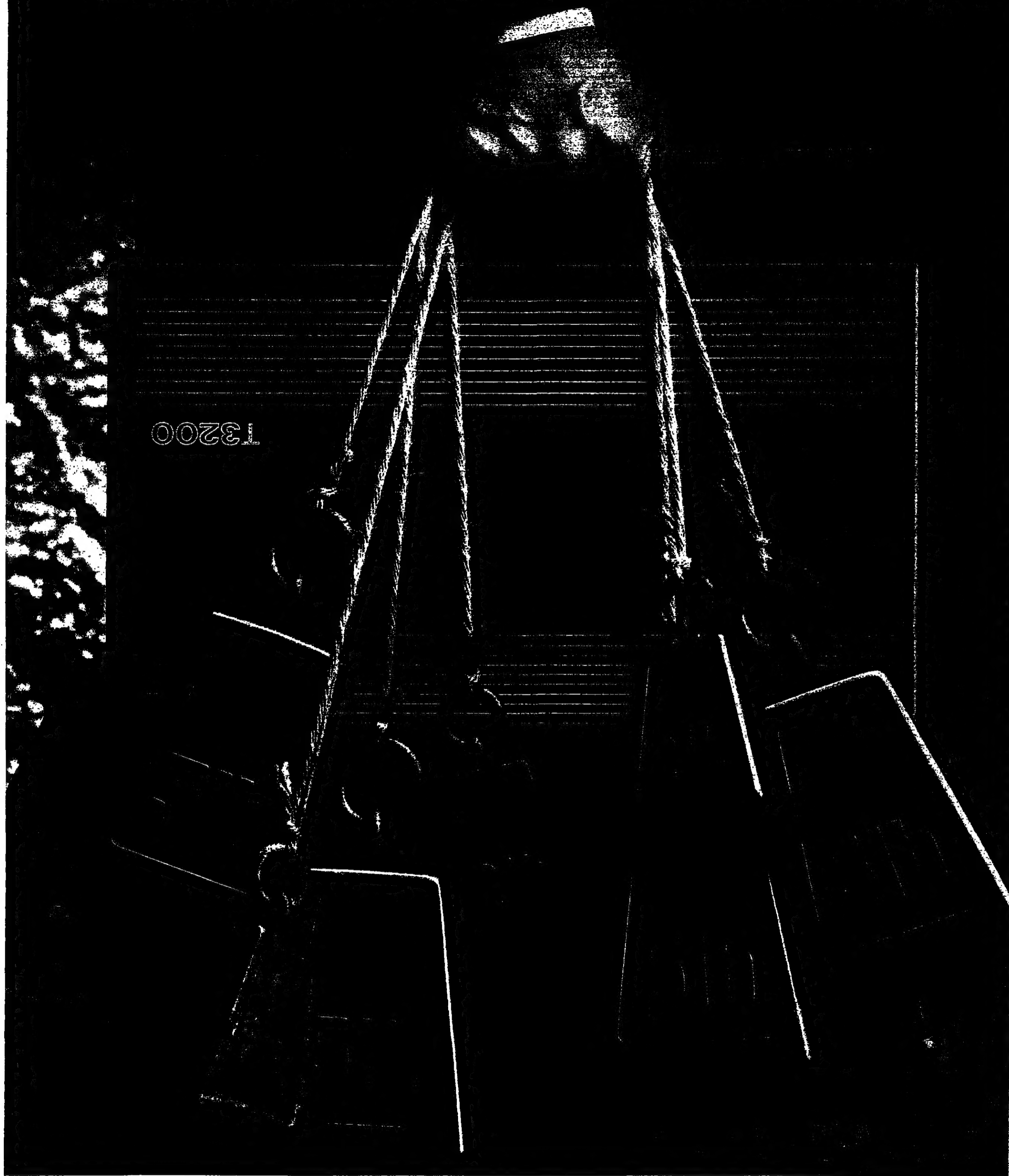
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Soviet economist calls for 'vital' radical reforms

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A leading Soviet economist has published a radical new programme of Western-style economic reforms which he argues are vital if the ailing economy is to survive the growing conservative backlash being mounted by the enemies of perestroika.

Among the measures proposed to win support from a public bitterly disillusioned by the failure of perestroika to remedy drastic shortages is the widespread transfer of state farmland to individuals and sales of gold to raise cash for Western imports.

The sweeping new proposals were made in the influential journal *Novyi Mir* by Mr Nikolai Shmelev, one of the country's most progressive economic thinkers who caused a sensation last year when he advocated temporary unemployment as another means for rescuing the economy.

His latest article, titled "New Alarms", attracted wide attention in Moscow, where the official media, led by *Pravda*, has recently been devoting more space to the growing strength and determination of the lobby opposed to the Kremlin reforms.

Echoing observations made

by a number of senior Western diplomats here, Mr Shmelev said that better food supplies and consumer goods must be provided if the ordinary public was to be brought round to support reform.

"Everything that is economically unfeasible is immoral, everything that is morally feasible is moral," he proposed as a new Soviet economic philosophy.

Mr Shmelev also called for the scrapping of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign. In its three years, he said, the campaign had deprived the country of massive revenues and succeeded only in creating a black market for home-distilled liquor which was approaching the level of organized crime during American prohibition in the 1920s.

Pointing out that bureaucratic opposition to perestroika was increasing, especially in the regions, the economist warned that the failure of the Kremlin's present reform programme would put the Soviet Union "in the margins of history, turn it into an underdeveloped country".

Mr Shmelev added: "It cannot be excluded that if we do not achieve something

tangible, felt by everyone, in the next year or two, the fate of perestroika can come under threat."

Confounding complaints frequently made by Westerners by ordinary Muscovites, the economist declared: "There is widespread opinion... that the situation in the produce and mass consumer market has not only not improved, but has deteriorated. There are queues in the stores and empty shelves just as before."

A few days before the publication of yesterday's article, a senior Western diplomat here said privately that he believed the future of reform depended entirely on the Kremlin's ability to improve supplies of basic products, especially food. He said that without such an improvement, the public would not tolerate price increases which are promised as the next step to reform.

In a sweeping departure from traditional Communist Party economics, Mr Shmelev called for public dissatisfaction about supplies to be rectified by a sharp rise in imports mainly through "extraordinary hard currency spending" on Western products. The cash, he added,

could come from hard currency reserves, increased sales of gold — of which the Soviet Union is one of the world's largest producers — and foreign borrowing.

Mr Shmelev argued that the possibility of reducing military expenditure was another potential avenue for financing reform, but said that this was a separate issue. He claimed that the growth of foreign debt within limits was quite permissible.

The article, more radical than anything published before in the official media on the question of new economic methods, also claimed that economic reform could be financed by open sales to citizens of shares in Soviet industry and agriculture and through state bond issues.

The economist's call for an end to the clamp-down on alcohol appeared assured of public support. Alleging that two-thirds of alcohol sales now went to bootleggers instead of the state — which was facing a deficit of between \$1.5 and \$2 billion (about £800 million and more than £1 billion) a year as a result of alcohol revenues — Mr Shmelev called for a sharp cut in the price of vodka.

Showing support for Chirac



Two young supporters of M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister and a candidate in the forthcoming presidential election, covering each other with images of their idol at a weekend rally.

Another candidate, M. Raymond Barre, a former Prime Minister whose star has been fading in pre-election opinion polls, meanwhile said in an interview that he was not completely buried yet (AFP reports from Paris). A new opinion poll published yesterday showed M. Barre with only 16 per cent of voting intentions in the first round of the election.

Mr Chirac, his main conservative rival, was shown receiving 24.5 per cent, and the outgoing President Mitterrand, a Socialist, 37.5 per cent.

The poll showed a slight narrowing of the

gap between M. Chirac and M. Mitterrand, and a further slight fall for M. Barre, who now appears to be leaving open the possibility of new cross-party alliances in the unlikely event of his beating M. Chirac in the first round of the election on April 24 and going on to beat M. Mitterrand in the second, two weeks later.

Unlike M. Chirac, who intends to form a new government based on his present conservative parliamentary coalition if elected, M. Barre said that he would dissolve parliament and call a new election.

M. Chirac is supported by his conservative Rally for the Republic party, the majority party in the coalition, whereas M. Barre is backed by the less homogeneous Union for French Democracy, a loose centre-right

Eight die as troops raid Tamil hideout

Colombo (Reuters) — Sri Lankan troops have stormed a Tamil rebel hideout in North Central Province, killing eight men thought to have massacred 14 civilians last week, a spokesman said yesterday.

He said two identity cards belonging to massacre victims were found in the camp.

Troops raided the hideout in the jungles of Anuradhapura district, 10 miles north-east of Meegastawa, where Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were said to have beheaded four victims after attacking a civilian convoy on Friday.

Gelli released

Parma (Italy AP) — Signor Licio Gelli, aged 68, alleged mastermind of some of Italy's most sensational post-war political-financial scandals, has been temporarily released from prison here because of a serious heart condition.

Airlifts halted

Brussels (Reuters) — Belgium is suspending airlifts of food and medical supplies to parts of Ethiopia because of the danger to flight crews during fighting between government forces and rebels.

Arson arrests

Amsterdam (Reuters) — Police arrested six suspected members of a militant group connected with arson attacks in The Netherlands.

Gandhi visit

Bonn (AFP) — The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is to make a postponed official visit to West Germany from June 7.

Bus tragedy

Bangkok (Reuters) — At least 45 people died when a crowded bus plunged off the road into a canal north of here.

Kremlin warned of Estonian tensions

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Leading intellectuals in the Baltic republic of Estonia have warned the Kremlin that nationalist tensions are growing because of centralized control being imposed from Moscow on nominally independent republics.

The declaration has added to the catalogue of ethnic difficulties now facing Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who is still coping with the aftermath of the recent serious unrest in

Armenia and Azerbaijan. The intellectuals, leaders of Estonia's six cultural unions, also claimed that their nation was facing a "demographic crisis" because of uncontrolled immigration. At present, only 65 per cent of its 1.6 million population is Estonian, while 28 per cent is Russian.

In letters to the Communist Party conference scheduled for Moscow in June, and to their republic's party and gov-

ernment, the intellectuals alleged that the Estonian leadership had shown incompetence in handling local problems.

The letters, issued after a 20-hour meeting last week of the leaders of Estonia's official unions of writers, artists, composers, architects, journalists and theatrical workers, also accused the Soviet media of distorting the situation in the republic and of trying to blame problems on the West.

Speakers at the heated meeting called for Estonian to be declared the single official language and for non-Estonian speakers to be barred from official jobs. Several speakers also demanded that the republic have control over its economy.

● BELGRADE: Gulag Archipelago, Alexander Solzhenitsyn's account of life in Soviet labour camps, has gone on sale in Yugoslavia.

Turmoil in Punjab: Part 2

Gandhi's task is to win over student militants

With additional advanced arms flowing into India's troubled northern state of Punjab, hope for a solution to the Sikh campaign of violence now revolves round a young priest recently released from imprisonment. Michael Manly reports from the Sikh holy city on the chances for peace.

Two hundred yards from the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple of Amritsar, past the sandbagged pickets of the Central Reserve Police and into the largely Hindu bazaar, is a dharmshala, a place of religious refuge.

In a room off its tall, elaborately decorated courtyard, Mrs Prakash Chand nurses an arm in heavy plaster, shattered by a Sikh assassin's bullet. She permits her long shirt to be pulled up to display her skinny breast pierced by another bullet.

"We thought we were so poor that no one would bother about us," says her husband, a Hindu farm labourer who grew a beard to appear less conspicuous in the mainly Sikh agricultural society.

But neither his poverty nor his beard kept seven turbaned killers at bay two weeks after all the Hindus in the village had been warned to leave.

Though he escaped, his two brothers, his sister-in-law and four neighbours died in the hail of fire from Kalashnikov rifles. A three-year-old child was among them.

"There is no government in the countryside. It is ruled by the terrorists," said Mr Satpal Sharma, another bearded Hindu refugee seeking shelter in the dharmshala.

Warnings to Hindus to leave his village were broadcast from loudspeakers in the local Sikh temple, but took no notice until there were two encounters between a band of guerrillas and the force of Central Reserve Police. The guerrillas escaped each time, and Mr Sharma decided it was time to move.

"The terrorists do not con-

sider the security forces deployed by the Government any hindrance to their activities," he said.

The sentiment is echoed in the Golden Temple itself, where officials of the rebel organizations boldly meet the press, and plot their mayhem. "If we do not agree with the Government, we shall not allow that Government to work," claimed Giani Jagir Singh, spokesman for the Panthic Committee, the umbrella organization for three of the four or five killer bands.

But at the same time, the Indian Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi is trying to make some approaches to the extremists to see whether some form of government — short of Khalistan, the separate and independent Sikh state that

the gunmen are pursuing — can be re-established in Punjab.

The Government's hopes revolve on Bhai Jasbir Singh Rode, a 34-year-old Sikh priest who is the nephew of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the rebel martyr who died in the army assault on the Golden Temple in 1984.

Gurkha threat of more violence

Calcutta (Reuters) — Gurkhas fighting for autonomy in India threatened yesterday to renew their sometimes violent campaign because of police excesses. The Gurkha leader, Mr Subhish Ghising, said: "We will be forced to launch a negative and non-stop movement for a separate state if police raids and martial law continue to be imposed."

He has previously accused the ruling Communist Party in West Bengal of torturing and shooting his supporters.

Last year, the Gurkha National Liberation Front agreed to accept partial autonomy but negotiations became bogged down. Now Mr Ghising appears to be renewing his demand for a separate state.

Bhai Jasbir Singh (he is anxious to drop the surname Rode, which refers to his native village, and prefers to be known as Khalsa — "pure") was educated at Bandhuni Takal, the extremist seminary formerly headed by his uncle (and whose staff still believed Sant Bhindranwale to be alive when I paid a visit at the weekend).

He went to lecture in the Gulf, and was thrown out of Britain when he tried to enter from Dubai in 1984. After being chased round the world to Manila, he was handed over by President Marcos to the Indians, who jailed him without ever bringing him to trial. He was released a few weeks ago as part of Mr Gandhi's peace drive.

The Panthic Committee promptly elected him high priest of the Akal Takht, Sikhdom's seat of both spiritual and temporal power and the highest religious position in the faith.

For the moment he is playing his cards extremely cautiously, trying to build a following among the Sikh youth, and moving to promote unity among the highly fissile extremist groups.

He spent last week travelling the state, prior to a meeting he has called for tomorrow at which the two divisions of the All-India Sikh Students' Federation — the principal engine of extremism — are expected to reunite.

"There will be no agreement

without the total involvement of the youth," he said, and he blames the "old leadership" for having betrayed the Sikh cause by compromising with the Government.

"Because they have betrayed as they have lost the support of the youth," he said. "The Government has, all along, encouraged these old leaders because they know the talks will ultimately fail."

"But my position is different. Before holding talks with the centre I will take the youth into confidence. That includes all the fighting forces. I am only a bridge over the river. I will bring the youth to the negotiating table."

But is there any possibility that the central Government will be able to offer anything that could satisfy Sikh aspirations at this stage?

According to a Sikh political scientist, Dr Gurnam Singh, professor at Guru Nanak Dev University here, it may be possible, though unlikely.

Dr Gurnam Singh believes that if a special kind of status is given to the Sikhs within the broad Indian federal set-up, whereby the Sikh predominance in Punjab can be assured, then a settlement is possible.

It would require that no outsider (that is, non-Sikh) be given a franchise or a right to purchase land, and that the Sikhs be assured of leadership to "preserve their culture, their religion, their heritage" in addition to the other Sikh claims.

It seems highly improbable that such status could be granted by the central Government, but it will require something similarly dramatic to turn the extremists away from

their pursuit of Khalistan.

Bhai Jasbir Singh is not mentioning Khalistan at the moment, but instead is calling for *param azadi* (complete freedom) for the Sikhs. It remains to be seen how far he can unite the militants behind any proposals that will allow a diminution in the campaign of violence.

If the campaign does not diminish then there is the certain threat of an even more draconian regime under a state of emergency, legislation for which was signed into law last month. That, at least, would please the Hindus in the dharmshala and in the rest of the country. It would make electoral sense for Mr Gandhi, but it might not reduce the bloodshed.

Continued

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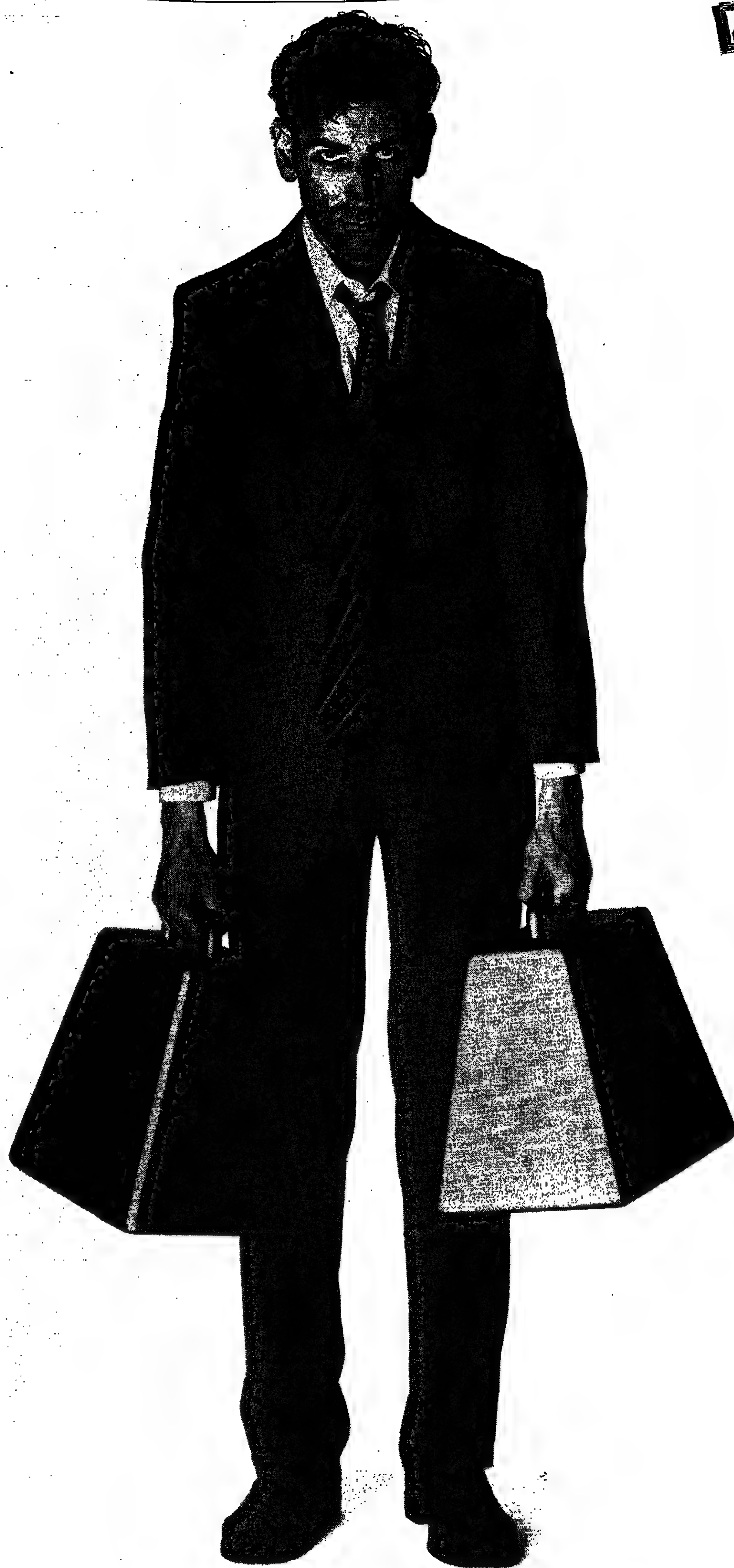
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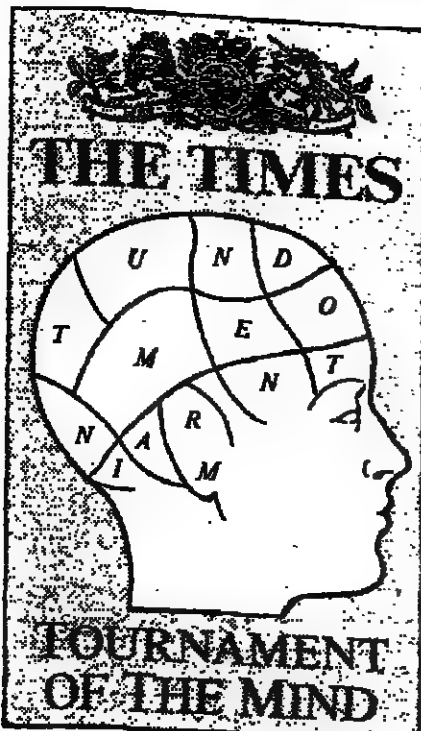
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● Even those who have not reached the finals can enjoy the challenge of these questions every day this week. In the event of a tie, further questions will be set until an outright winner is found

Mrs Victoria Black, of Sherwood in Nottinghamshire, freely admits to having sought a qualified second opinion on her way to the finals of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind — her husband is a doctor.

At the end of each day, having taken on average two hours to complete the questions, she would go to him for corroboration. "He didn't always agree," she says, "but whenever he raised a query, it was always with good reason."

Mrs Black, who is 33, also points to two other factors which just might have helped her reach this stage of the tournament: first, she is a chemistry teacher at a local comprehensive school, and hence familiar with the business of problem-solving; and second, she is just finishing her maternity leave to look after her five-month-old daughter. "When I'd got the baby down I could concentrate my mind on the problems," she says.

"It often made quite a welcome change."

"There's no doubt that my maths grounding stood me in good stead. Now that I've got to the finals, I'd say that the questions which strike me as having got much harder are the general knowledge ones. They've definitely stepped up another gear. Oh yes, there was one other thing that I think helped me. I do *The Times* crossword every day."

INDIVIDUAL FINAL — ROUND TWO

1 LOGIC

In the diagram you will see two planets in orbit around their sun, each moving clockwise. The outer planet takes 8 years to complete an orbit while the inner one takes two years. At the moment, the planets are in line with each other and their sun. Imagine that in this solar system, each year is exactly 365 days long and that it is now exactly midnight on December 31, 1899. By some freak, the months are exactly the same length in days as ours and they have the same names. Can you tell us when the planets will first form a 90° angle with their sun? For example, planet A could be at 12 o'clock and planet B at three o'clock:



2 VERBAL

The groups of letters which follow are jumbled words. You must unscramble the words and discover the most obvious one out.

TALONBA PODOLLE CHILDIC PACHAAL

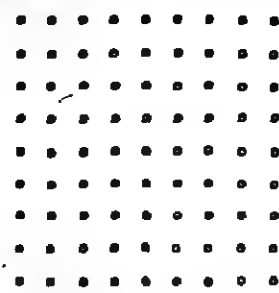
3 MATHS

Replace the three question marks with three mathematical symbols to make the equation work:

$$((4\% ? 17\frac{1}{2}) ? 4\%) ? \frac{3}{4} = 17\frac{1}{2}$$

4 MISCELLANEOUS

Here is a nine by nine array of dots. How many different but perfect squares of any size can be found in the illustration in such a way that each corner of each square lies on a dot?



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Name the male and female deities who stirred up the sea with a spear, creating islands from the drops.
2. Which artist created *Light-Space Modulators*?
3. Which yellow to reddish-brown material is a common source of the rare earths?
4. What type of socialism worked through industrial action and wished to substitute a federation of functional economic units for the state.
5. Which German author wrote the romantic fairytale *Der blonde Eckbert*?

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

Horse sense

By Aarvak (the Norse horse that draws the sun's chariot driven by the maiden Sol) and Xanthos (Achilles' wonderful talking horse), your horse is a strange creature. This must be because man rode into history and civilization on its back. Wynkyn de Worde gave the 15 points of a good horse in 1496: *A good horse sholde have three propertes of a man, three of a woman, three of a foxe, three of a hare, and three of an asse. Of a man, Bolde, prowde, and hardye.*

Of a woman, Fayre-breasted, faire of haire, and easy to move.

Of a foxe, A fair taylle, short eers, with a good trotte.

Of a hare, A grate eye, a dry head, a well rennyng.

Of an asse, A bygge chyn, a flat legges, and a good hooffe.

But we have it from the horse's mouth (looking at its incisors is a more accurate way of judging a horse's age than believing a horse coper) that it is

linguistically as well as equinely. We should not be surprised that the horse is a prolific sire of human proverbs and sayings, from the superiority of the grey mare to the equal virtue of a nod and a wink to a blind horse, and the three things that are

not to be trusted, a cow's horn, a dog's tooth, and a horse's hoof. For millenniums the horse was man's vehicle to power and status.

Nobody knows the origin of the Common Germanic word. It was originally neuter, like deer, sheep, and swine, and applicable to both male and female. It was first written down in English as *hors* in a Psalter of about 825 AD. In Anglo-Saxon the nominative singular and plural were identical, but the plural *horsas* appeared early in the 13th century. The original uninflected form survives, just about, in "horse soldiers" for cavalry. The Common Indo-European root word has diversified more widely than usual: Old British Runic *eh*, Old Saxon *ehu*, Old Norse *jör*, Gothic *aiwa*, Greek *hippos* as in Philip, Sanskrit *ayvas*, Lithuanian *arvas*, Old Irish *ech*, Welsh *ep*.

In attributive use horse

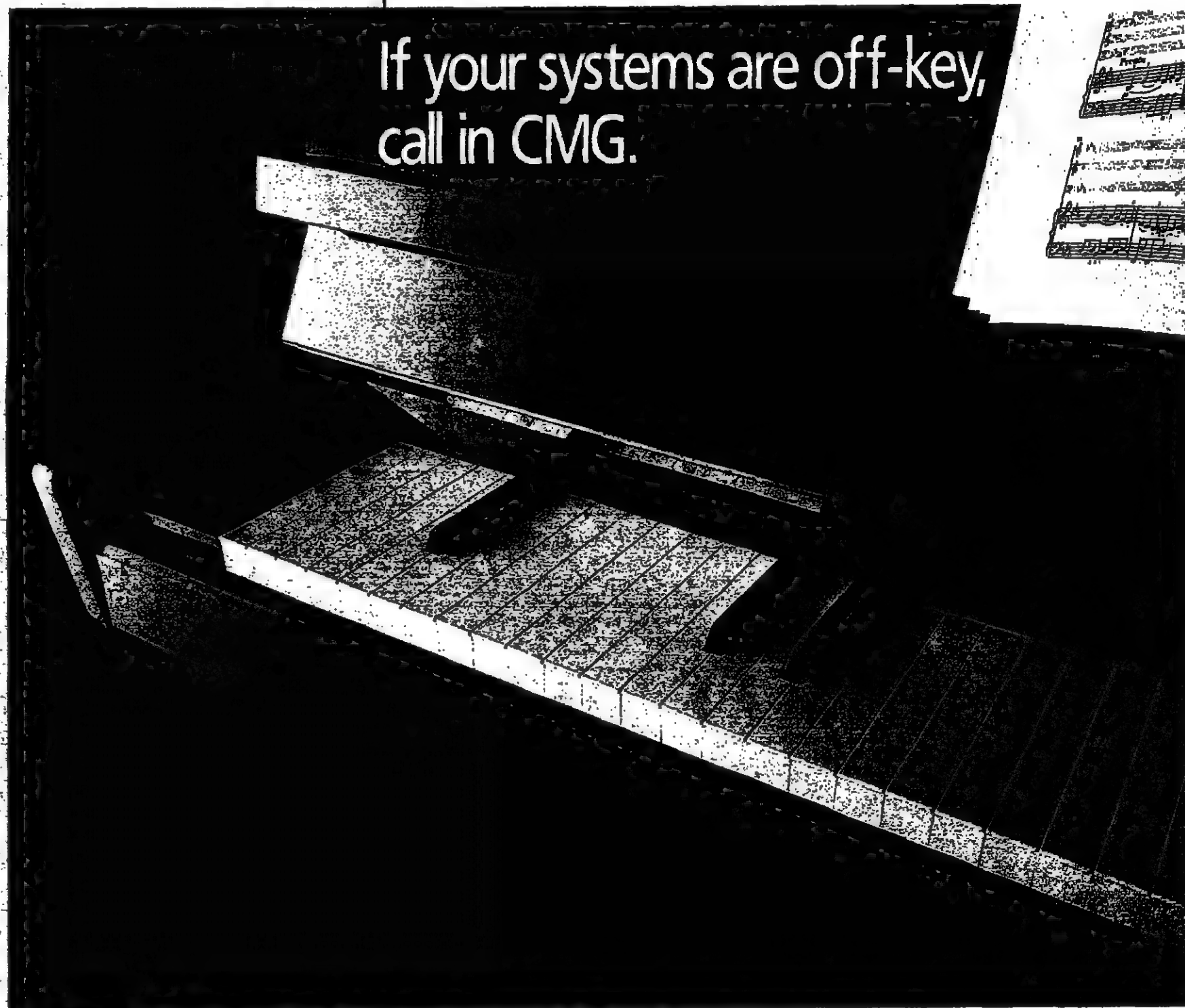
often denotes coarseness, roughness, or large size, as in a horse laugh, horse leech, horse mackerel, horse mint, horse radish, horseplay, and in the verb: "Stop horsing around this minute, boys; matron is coming". The horse chestnut is a puzzle. Explanations include the suggestion that it was used to cure horses of the cough and that when a leaf stalk is pulled off, it presents a miniature of a horse's hock and foot. I don't believe either derivation; but I have nothing better to offer.

There is similar insipidated fog about the origin of the horse latitudes, the belt of calm and light winds around 30° North and South. Some explain that these latitudes are called horse because they were generally fatal to horses and cattle being shipped to America. Others say that sailing ships were sometimes obliged to jettison their cargoes when becalmed in the horse lati-

tudes because of shortage of water for the animals. A "Dead horse" was the term used by seamen to describe the period of work on board ship for which they had been paid in advance when signing on. They used to celebrate having worked off the dead horse by

parading an effigy of a horse stuffed with straw around the decks to the song: "Old man, your horse must die."

Nautical etymologists say that the proverb to flog a dead horse refers to expecting vainly, to get extra work out of a ship's crew while they are working off the dead horse. These ingenious ancient mariners connect the horse latitudes with this custom. In the older days of sail it took about two months out of England to win clear of the horse latitudes, and that was where the dead horse of straw was hoisted to the yardarm and cut adrift to fall into the sea. Others derive the horse latitudes from the Spanish *El Golfo de las Yeguas*, the Mares' Sea, because of its boisterous nature in contradistinction with the trade wind zone, *El Golfo de las Danzas*. In my opinion you can tell all such derivations to the horse marines.



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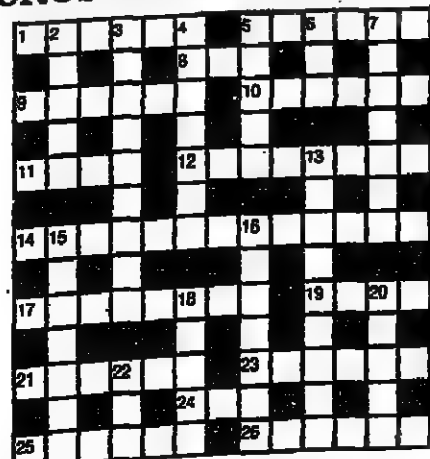
CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1537

ACROSS

- 1 Rip in pieces (4,2)
- 5 Bad-tempered (6)
- 8 Make mistake (3)
- 9 Biblical punisher (6)
- 10 Brief (6)
- 11 Threesome (4)
- 12 Continuous (8)
- 14 Swaggering (1,3)
- 17 Put up with (8)
- 19 Top-notch people (1,1,2)
- 21 Ruined (6)
- 23 Jonah (6)
- 24 Morale (3)
- 25 Danish money (6)
- 26 Extraordinary beauty (6)

DOWN

- 2 Early wheat (5)



- 3 Turned up (nose) (9)
- 4 Trouble (7)
- 5 Leaf fragment (5)
- 6 Also (3)
- 7 In combination (7)
- 13 Unaware (9)
- 15 Huge lie (7)
- 16 "The Seagull" playwright (7)
- 18 Change (5)
- 20 Film picture (5)
- 22 Homiety (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1536

- ACROSS: 1 Scorer 5 Piss 8 Globe 9 License 11 Lake Eric 12 Sub 13 Clingfilm 14 Lull 15 Stuffing 16 Dauphin 17 Felon 24 Team 25 Shrewd
- DOWN: 2 Crook 3 Rue 4 Rolling Stones 5 Pick 6 Sanctum 7 Agile 8 Elba 12 Evil 14 Tiff 15 Culture 16 Clad 17 Agency 20 In-law 21 Sham 23 For

TIMES DIARY

RICHARD COBB

Why do people go on so about the poor old Masons, about them being in the police and so on? It is a strange twist of history, nearly 50 years after they were proscribed by Vichy's anti-Masonic and anti-Jewish legislation of 1940. Then it was the German Nazis, the French *maurassiens* and the French Catholic hierarchy who were in the habit of referring darkly to a Judeo-Masonic conspiracy. My grandfather was a Mason, quite high up I think in the Colchester Lodge. I have his Masonic medals and triangular sashes. He was an excellent man, staunchly Liberal, very charitable, and anything but a conspirator. I have always thought of Masons as harmless people who make a point of looking after their own: good Masonic schools and hospitals. Now, for some reason, it has become fashionable to vilify these victims of fascism and clericalism of the 1930s and 1940s. I hope someone important stands up for them. No one did in France in the summer of 1940.

I am not interested in the weather, provided it is not hot and sunny. At this time of year I watch with dread the coming of spring, because that brings nearer the threat of summer and the horrible months of July and August (if only they could be abolished and the calendar reduced to 10 months!).

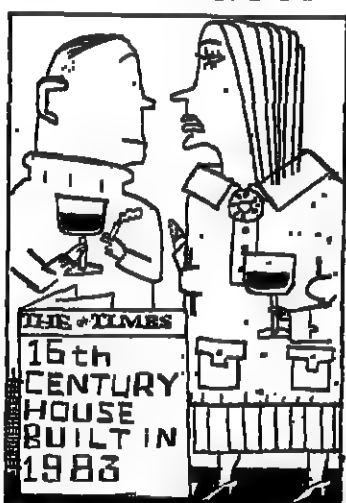
Next year, up and down the country, the bicentenary of the French Revolution will be celebrated — if that is the right word: there will at least, I think, be plenty of food and drink to help it down. There are to be conferences in Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Manchester and Birmingham, though I don't think Cambridge has anything in mind. Most of these conferences are jumping the gun, being held in March or April, in order to leave the field clear for the *grande finale*, fireworks and all, in Paris on July 14. The chances are that there will by then be hardly anyone around in the French capital to celebrate it. The French, Parisians included, are not easily disturbed in their holiday habits.

Why should we be celebrating the bicentenary of someone else's revolution? A simple answer would be that there is quite a lot of money in it and that it would be both foolish and ungrateful not to accept inducements so readily provided. But there is more to it than mere *reconnaissance du ventre*, though I for one feel that that is a very powerful motivation. If you are asked to a party, accept. Eating and drinking have a universal appeal and easily overcome any ideological divisions. There will be books in it, too, as a more solid dessert to follow the pleasures of the feast itself. But, for England at least, there is indeed something to celebrate.

Faced with what was happening in Paris and in many garrison towns in northern France in June-July 1789, the British government of the day rejoiced. As one elite regiment after another mutinied, often after their officers had been disarmed and lynched, French military power seemed to be disintegrating. Pitt's very sensible reaction was to sit aside while France tore itself apart. Anything that weakened France militarily could only be to our advantage.

Perhaps Pitt's university should be joining in, too. Christ's College would be the place to hold it.

BARRY FANTONI



'Must have used our plumber'

I was in Paris on July 14, 1939, for the 150th anniversary of the French Revolution: *le cent-cinquantième*, a bit of a mouthful, and which soon went rather badly wrong. I stood on the Quai du Louvre and watched the huge military parade go thundering past. Enormous black tanks, each marked on its turret with hearts, spades, clubs or diamonds (a Tunbridge Wells touch, I thought, and one that induced *le Canard* to comment that "France had put all her cards on the table") made the whole road shake. I don't know where they were nine months later.

What did come out of the 150th was Jean Renoir's wonderful film about the march of the Marseillais up to Paris, and Georges Lefebvre's beautifully concise *Quatre Vingtième*, a book that was to be one of the first victims of the Vichy government, which ordered its withdrawal in July 1940.

At a fairly recent *bi-centenaire*, that of the Edict of Fontainebleau, better known as the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, of 1685, I was invited to a splendid lunch party at the Maison Française d'Oxford given in honour of the Huguenot Oxford of Great Britain — those of the Channel Islands, Canada and the USA were also represented. At the beginning of the lunch we were assured by our kind host that all the wine, both red and white, that was to be served to us would be *du vin protestant*. I think we were all mightily encouraged by an assurance that offered so happy a combination of conviction with pleasure.

What sort of wine should be drunk over here next March and April? In 1795 the former terrorists became known as *buvards de sang*. They had in fact never been anything of the sort. They had drunk wine, much of it of poor quality: vin de Paris, Suresnes, Clamart, Choisy. There is no need to imitate them next year. Wine is apolitical, indeed the best form of *cobaltisation*. As for food, for an entrée I would suggest a *lôte de veau*, as served at those annual dinners held by staunch Republicans, on January 21, to celebrate the execution of Louis XVI. Or should that dish wait till 1993?

The author was formerly Professor of Modern History at Oxford University.

The possible use of the SAS, one of the world's most efficient counter-terrorist organizations, to storm the hijacked Kuwait Airways jet has been carefully weighed in Whitehall since the plane landed at Larnaca airport on Friday — though they would be sent in only at the specific request of both the Kuwaiti and Cyprus governments.

From the start it was hoped that exhaustion might lead the hijackers to accept a negotiated solution which contained no Kuwait concessions on key issues. But contingency plans have been drawn up on the assumption that further killings would necessitate the use of force.

After the first cold-blooded killing on Saturday, the chances grew that Kuwait and Cyprus would seek British help. With sovereign military bases in Cyprus, Britain could send men and equipment to the island unopposed. Cyprus is a Commonwealth country and Britain has a close relationship with Kuwait. So, in the event of a request for help, the British government could reasonably be expected to say "yes".

It became clear yesterday that Mrs Thatcher decided early on that she would not refuse if a request came from both governments. But it cannot have been

Andrew McEwen on the chances of an SAS rescue attack at Larnaca

To storm or not to storm?

an easy decision. British intervention could cost the lives of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, the British hostages held in Beirut by groups believed to be sympathetic to the hijackers' aims. Britain could increasingly be portrayed as hostile to the spread of Shia extremism in the Middle East. Critics at home could argue that it would be an unwarranted use of military muscle, given that no direct British interest has been at stake since the British passengers were released on Thursday, and would expose British aircraft and interests to attack.

Mrs Thatcher will have taken all these factors into account, but they will have been outweighed by the same consideration that led her to allow President Reagan to use US airbases in Britain for the bombing of Tripoli two years ago: those who take a firm line with terrorists and their sponsors may pay a short-term price (two British

hostages were murdered in Lebanon immediately after the Libya bombing), but will be treated with greater respect in future.

The British public has always supported her when she took decisions that other countries interpreted as aggressive: the despatch of the task force to recapture the Falklands in 1982; the diplomatic break with Libya after the murder of Yvonne Fletcher in 1984 and the break with Syria in 1986 after Nezar Hindawi's attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow.

More than any other Western leader, Mrs Thatcher has persuaded her own voters that it pays to be tough. She showed herself willing to gamble on that reaction last month when the SAS shot dead three IRA terrorists before they could plant a car bomb in Gibraltar.

She views the al-Sabah ruling family of Kuwait as a kindred spirit for its refusal to make concessions, in spite of a similar

hijacking in 1984, a car-bomb attempt on the Emir's life in 1985 and a series of industrial sabotage operations.

As Mrs Thatcher never tires of saying, every concession to terrorism encourages further attacks. It is because she has established that point that there has been so little public agitation to do a deal with Iran and Syria to free Terry Waite and John McCarthy. The French, West German and US governments have all been under far greater pressure from their electorates over their own hostages, and all have made damaging concessions. None more so than Washington, with its bungled attempt to trade hostages for weapons.

One might wonder why Mr George Vassiliou, the new president of Cyprus, elected partly with communist support, should turn to Britain. The Greek Cypriots are, after all, noted for military ruthlessness and might

be expected to storm the plane themselves. But a small country like Cyprus could not be expected to maintain a force as specialized as the SAS.

The use of troops not specifically trained for the task could lead to a bloodbath. This was shown in 1985 when an Egyptian attack on a hijacked aircraft at Malta left 60 dead and, a year later, when Pakistani special forces were too late to prevent 16 people being killed and 78 injured aboard a Pan American 747 at Karachi airport.

If a foreign unit is used at Larnaca, it has to be the SAS. Israeli troops match their ruthless efficiency, but Kuwait could never seek their help. The US anti-terrorist Delta forces are also highly trained but neither Kuwait nor Cyprus would wish to involve a superpower. West Germany's GSG/9 has directly relevant experience, but Bonn would be unlikely to welcome a request for help.

The most celebrated SAS rescue came in May 1980, when 20 men burst into the Iranian embassy in London after terrorists had shot dead two hostages. They rescued 19 other hostages and killed four of the gunmen.

But they have been involved in storming only one aircraft. That was in October 1977 when two SAS men helped GSG/9 to rescue 86 hostages on board a hijacked Lufthansa jet at Mogadishu, in Somalia.

The GSG/9 squad blasted open the aircraft's doors with dynamite and hurled six stun grenades, supplied by the SAS, into the cabin. The grenades momentarily immobilized the hijackers without seriously harming the passengers, and the Germans opened fire, killing one terrorist instantly, mortally wounding two and seriously wounding a fourth. Three members of the Basler-Meinhof gang committed suicide in their cells in West Germany on hearing the news.

A five-man SAS group was sent to RAF Akrotiri to stand by after the hijacking of a TWA jet from Athens to Beirut in June 1985, but was not used.

After the murder of a second hostage at Larnaca, the SAS could have a rescue operation all their own.

T.E. Utley

Giving the IRA the initiative

There are (such is the message I am bidden to bring back from Ulster where I have just spent a week) the stirrings of a new political initiative in that province. I am bound to say that the message does not instantly lighten the hearts of those of us who have grown old in the business of analysing Ulster's ills.

How many political initiatives have we lived through? What is more, all of them have been "new". Most of them, it is true, have been variants on a single theme — the obstinate wish of the British government so to reform the political attitudes of Ulster men as to make possible the sort of settlement, based on compromise and good sense, which, so the Government believes, would have been achieved long ago if the province were only inhabited by Englishmen.

The details of the proposed settlement do not vary much from initiative to initiative (though the Anglo-Irish Agreement did go a bit further in the same direction). There should be a devolved government and parliament in the six counties; Unionists must make the supreme sacrifice of agreeing to share the executive power with nationalists and of being willing to accept some sort of institutional arrangement for close co-operation with the Republic.

In return, nationalists must make the supreme sacrifice of giving absolutely unreserved support to the security forces and of abandoning all links, however tenuous and sporadic, with republican terrorists. By these means, the IRA will be isolated, alienated from its American sponsors and unequivocally condemned in the court of world opinion.

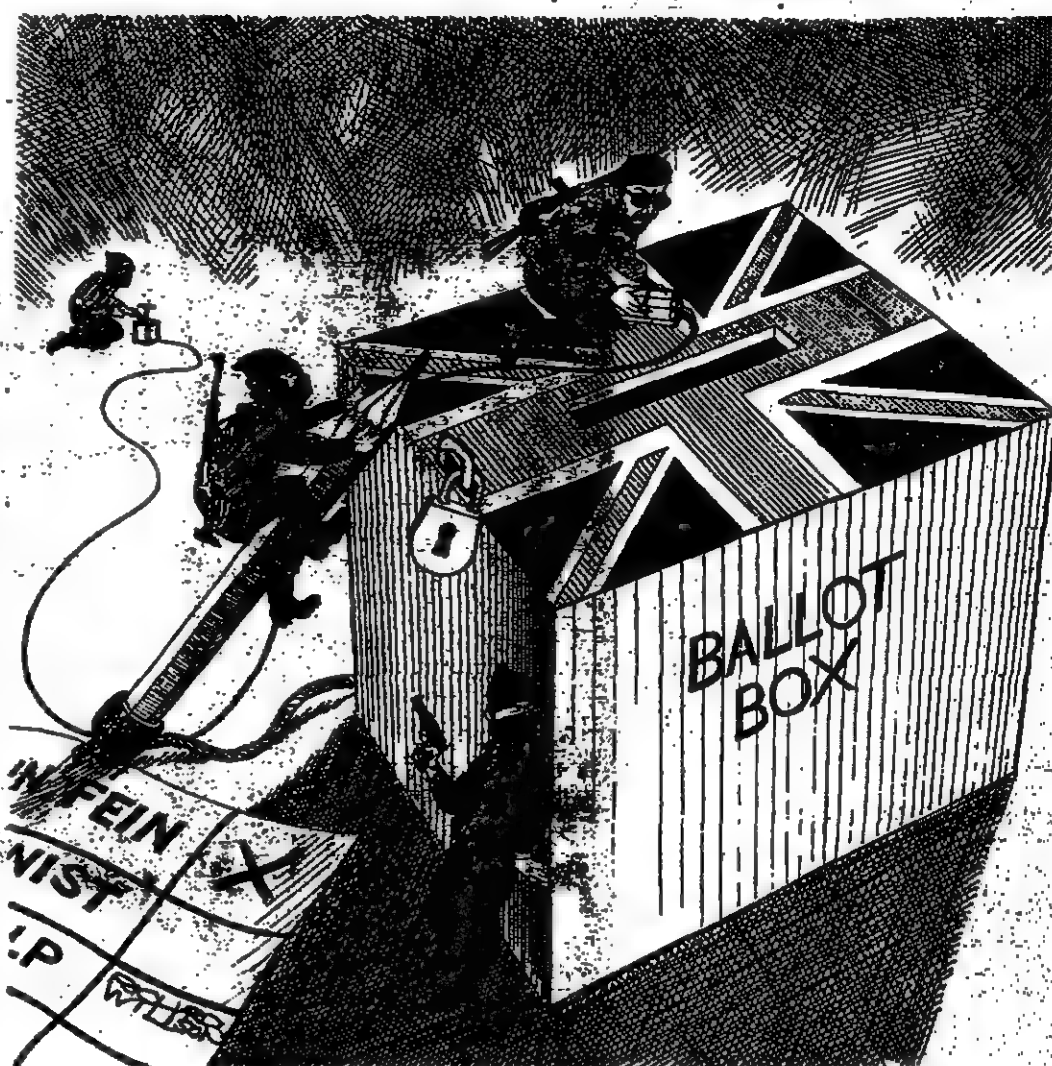
As for the differences between these various government initiatives, they have been semantic. Sometimes devolution has been called "rolling devolution", sometimes "power sharing", sometimes "responsibility sharing". Let no one doubt, however, that among the Ulster politicians, who are so often accused

of being rigid, there has never been any position so stubbornly entrenched as that occupied by successive British governments. Even the Prime Minister, most uncharacteristically, has never seemed to have a single original thought about Ulster. Civil servants in other departments of state get their ears boxed when they confront her with hallowed clichés, the Northern Ireland Office seems to be exempt from this treatment. It, by contrast, is allowed to submerge her constantly under an avalanche of banality.

But wait! I am told by those who are enthusiastic for it that this current initiative, now painfully stirring into life, is really new in one immensely significant respect: it springs not from Whitehall but from the people of Ulster themselves. They are tired of the fight; they are tired of their established political leaders; a new generation is arising which wants a genuinely new initiative.

There are indeed several bodies in the province which are working to that end. A notable example is The Campaign for a Devolved Parliament, which has been lobbying me. Its theory runs thus: the nationalists must now be asked to give up the Anglo-Irish Agreement in its present form because it is fundamentally unacceptable to all brands of Unionists. In return for this supreme sacrifice, the Unionists must admit the other side to a permanent share in executive government, and it is whispered, not even excluded Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, from such participation. provided, of course, that Sinn Féin says it proposes to use the ballot box rather than the bullet in future.

It is, moreover, whispered that one of the merits of this arrangement would be that the IRA might offer a truce. Well, if it suited the IRA, so it would. What is new, about the new initiative, is that it does not concentrate simply on mobilizing the support of good peaceable middle-class people



(though there are plenty of them involved in it), but that it tries to get together what have hitherto been bad men.

Whoever said that the Irish have "long memories"? The sad truth is that there is nothing new about this kind of initiative either. It was very much the theme of Mervyn Rees's tenure of the Northern Ireland office. In his case it actually yielded two truces for the IRA — one from December 1974 to January 1975, the other from February 1975 to April 1975. They were disastrous in their consequences. They involved conceding to the IRA

something approaching belligerent status, and even setting up arrangements for co-operation between the UK army and the IRA in the enforcement of the armistices.

I believe that if the campaign for a devolved parliament were to succeed in all its immediate objectives, the following consequences would ensue: Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, would be given a unique opportunity to disrupt the political life of the province in the interest of the IRA; I believe that a "strong devolved parliament" in Ulster, particularly a par-

liament which, as the campaign seems to want, would have substantial responsibility for security, would, in the first instance encourage all those in Britain who are looking for opportunities to get Ulster off their backs. Later on, of course, the British would get tired of subsidizing a place which they did not control and simply being kept in reserve to provide military power to be called in whenever things over there got too much out of hand. In the end, the result would probably be an independent Ulster governed by an exasperated Prot-

estant community, and no paper constitutional guarantees would suffice to protect the minority.

No. The British government must decide whether it wants to govern Ulster or to abandon Ulster. By all means let it hold plebiscites continually (as things do in some peculiarly disinclined to do) in order to test the wishes of the people, but so long as its mandate survives it must discharge it. By all means let it attempt to revive local government in the province, but local government concerned with sewers not principles.

It breaks my heart to denounce this well-intentioned initiative, whose supporters include quite a number of my dear friends. There is for example my dear friend Peter McLachlan. He is the son of a Presbyterian clergyman, and he is a man of unspeakable honour, unfathomable generosity, high intellect and infinite, jolly optimism. He has been behind almost every initiative. Once he became a "peace woman", when "peace women" were supposed to be the thing. Militant Protestants throw rotten eggs at him and kick him; but, come the next initiative, there he is in the forefront, bearing Christian benevolence and singing hymns. It is a pain, but a duty, to say that I hope that his latest endeavour will fail; for, if it were to succeed, evil men would take advantage of him.

By contrast, I had the pleasure of travelling on an aeroplane with Ian Paisley with whom I have never had a conversation since I had the cheek to contest his constituency in February 1974. He told one of our travelling companions that he and I had been so mutually friendly that it was hard to believe that we were political opponents. That was not my precise impression at the time, but I am glad it was his and I am resolved to accept it retrospectively. Certainly, he will never tolerate this latest kind of initiative nonsense, and I shall be entirely behind him, as indeed I was, in another sense, in the 1974 poll.

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

Climate of violence

Gary was walking home around midnight after an evening out in Spenny Moor, Co Durham. He never saw his attackers clearly. They jumped on him from behind, stole his face with bloody hands and left him bloody and unconscious. The object of the crime was not money: no money was taken. It was an initiation rite carried out by youths to prove their fitness for membership of a local gang.

In another village only a few miles away, a different gang forced a car, driven by an elderly couple, to stop and smashed its windows and bonnet.

A week ago two gangs met at Ferryhill Working Men's Club. They wrecked the concert hall and sporadic fighting then broke out around the village. A dozen people were taken to hospital. The concert hall is now closed, losing the club thousands of pounds in revenue and spoiling a good evening out for the law-abiding majority.

These events are significant, not because they are exceptional, but because they are unexceptional. It becomes increasingly plain that organized gang violence is to be found in many towns and villages in the area and there is every reason to suppose it is replicated in most parts of the country.

It is also, both in its nature and extent, a new phenomenon. The gangs have names: "The Casual Force", "The New Breed" etc. elaborate codes of conduct and they are well organized. (One Darlington gang even has a "contingency fund" to pay legal expenses of members charged by the police.)

This is more than mere hooliganism. Indeed, in a wider context, the term "football hooli-

ganism" is misleading. It is nothing to do with football or football supporters. The match is just the venue chosen for the disorder. But outside the football ground and unreported similar scenes occur in town centres each Friday and Saturday night up and down the country.

Neither is the word "hooligan" appropriate. It suggests random rowdiness — young men with too much beer and too little brain. This violence is done with premeditated malice and intent. Of course, gang violence has been a feature of society since time immemorial. But it has tended to be confined to the big cities. Elsewhere violence has traditionally been after the pubs have closed, between rival groups of youths out to give each other "a good hiding", as an old regular in the working men's club explained. But when asked whether he and his friends would search out an old pensioner and beat him up, he looked outraged. "We weren't bloody sick."

This new lawlessness cannot be blamed on deprivation of a material sort. Many of the youths involved are still at school or employed and, in any case, unemployment usually acts as a depressant turning a person inward, not as a stimulus to group activity.

Not will it be remedied only by stiffer penalties, though some sentences for violent offences seem absurdly light. The main difficulty is catching and identifying the criminals, not in sentencing them.

In any event, that deals only with the symptoms. To perceive the underlying causes for this violence is more exciting and more troubling in its message. But it surely has something to do

with the decline in the notion of "community", of the idea that we owe obligations to our neighbours and our society as well as ourselves. It is instructive that the police, the representatives of law enforcement in the community, are often the victims of violence. The days when the arrival of even one policeman would break up a fight are long gone.

The members of the gangs, devoid of the discipline that comes from recognizing that the value of oneself is in some way related to the value given to others, prove their "worth", that they are "somebody", by inflicting fear upon someone else. It is a profound and corrosive form of alienation.

But none of us should escape responsibility. For we, collectively, determine the values of our society. When a sense of community is strong, that adds its own special pressure against anti-social behaviour. Instead, we have learnt to tolerate what should not be tolerated. A victim can be assaulted violently in a public place and ignored by others present.

We are living in a society where increasingly the term is itself becoming meaningless, where social responsibility and the duties that come with it are seen simply as a drag anchor on our private pleasure.

For the better off, their wealth may increase, but they will pay an ever larger price for their security from the world outside. The victims — the young, the poor and the elderly — will be those that cannot or will not, hide away. This is Britain 1988 style and it is time we woke up to it.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgfield.

SCIENCE REPORT

Out in force

The two-year search for a new force akin to gravity has just been given a new and complicating twist by two researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico. Writing in the US journal *Physical Review Letters*, they give reasons for believing that there are two new forces to be found.

The search for a new force was set off in 1986 by a report that inconsistencies in data on the gravitational attraction between different materials, originally gathered in the 1920s, could be reconciled if there were a previously unrecognized force between separate pieces of matter (see Science Report, February 22).

This "fifth" force — so called in acknowledgement of the four known forces (gravity, electromagnetism and two nuclear forces) — is supposed to act between all material objects, as gravity does.

At the outset, the fifth force was estimated to differ from gravity in repelling rather than attracting pairs of material objects and in declining in strength more rapidly with increasing distance than Newton's prescription requires.

Especially intriguing was the evidence that the strength of the force depends on the chemical composition of the materials concerned because their atomic nuclei are differently constituted.

The excitement of the search was dampened somewhat last year by reports of two careful experiments designed to measure the new



force directly. One, with an apparatus suspended on the face of the Palisades cliff, on the west bank of the Hudson River opposite Manhattan, gave a positive result. But the other, near a hillside at Seattle, Washington, was taken to imply that there is no fifth force.

The Los Alamos team — Mark Ander, T. Goldman, Richard Hughes and Michael Nieto — urge researchers not to give up the search. Their belief in two new forces is based on their expectation of what the theory of matter will be like when there has been some success in welding together Einstein's theory of gravitation and the quantum theory.

They argue that each of the two new forces would separately imply a correction to Newton's gravity on a distance-scale of tens of miles,

but that the two corrections would normally cancel each other out except on a much smaller distance, for example, between 100 and 1,000 yards.

One inference from this argument is that neither of the two experiments should have given a positive result. Anders says the Palisades' positive measurement may have been the result of a layer of dense igneous rock at its base.

Although the search for a fifth force may seem one of the esoteric pursuits that give science a bad name, success would help to resolve two important issues.

First, there is a long-standing discrepancy between geophysical measurements of gravitational attraction (in mineshafts, for example) and those made in the laboratory, with serious practical consequences. Second, the nature of a fifth (or sixth) force could help to distinguish between the many theories of matter now proliferating.

Two sets of measurements may soon tell whether the new forces exist. One is an attempt to measure the downward pull of the Earth's gravity in the 7,000ft borehole drilled in the Greenland icecap.

The other is a plan at the European high-energy physics laboratory (CERN) at Geneva to measure the gravitational pull on the particle of matter called the anti-proton, for which the two forces described by Anders and his colleagues should not cancel.

JOHN MADDOX

OUT OF BENEFIT

It is not hard to see why governments attempt reform of social security so seldom. The changes which take effect from today were originally conceived as a radical overhaul of the system. It was intended that this would save significant sums of public spending and substantially reduce dependency on the State.

The changes which will actually take place after two or three years of argument, first within government and then in the course of legislation, will cost money rather than save it. They represent only modest improvements rather than radical reform. Yet they have been vigorously attacked not only by the Government's political opponents but also by its own back-benchers.

The complaints, in reality, have little to do with the Government's reforming zeal. From the right, Tory back-benchers are concerned that the limit of £6,000 capital for eligibility in the revised benefit structure will discourage saving. Quite possibly the limit has been set too low. But it is inherent in a system of social benefits that disincentives will occur around the borderline for entitlement.

As income rises, benefits are withdrawn leading to the notorious poverty trap. Capital cannot be ignored in determining eligibility, and the same kind of disincentives arise as the claimant approaches that limit. The present reforms, at least, have the merit of abolishing the effective tax rates of over 100 per cent which disfigured the previous system. Abolishing disincentives altogether would require abolishing social security — which is not what the Tory critics have in mind.

The complaints from the left again have little to do with reform of the benefits system and everything to do with the recurrent question of what level of benefits should be paid. The Government claims that in cash terms 88 per cent of claimants will be better off as a result of the changes and only 12 per cent will lose. But the new levels do not allow for uprating for inflation. So in real terms many more will lose — 43 per cent concede the Government, more say some others.

In other words the Government has taken the opportunity of the reforms to reduce the real value of some of the benefits, in the same way that it has done with Child Benefit. It might have been better to have made this clearer from the beginning. The selling of these proposals has been weak in very many

respects. But the level of the benefits is a different matter from the structure which is what the reform was supposed primarily to be about.

The new system has some clear structural advantages over the old. Three benefits are involved. The new Family Credit which replaces Family Income Supplement will be paid to twice as many families as FIS and will not lead to effective marginal tax rates of over 100 per cent as used to occur as the supplement was withdrawn. This will help in a small way those families where the breadwinner is in work but on a low income.

Housing Benefit will no longer be given to those so far up the income scale and will be targeted more on those who need it most. It cannot be right for the State to be supporting as many as a third of all households as used to happen. Figures like that certainly begin to justify the phrase "the dependent society". Such savings as there are from these reforms occur mostly from confining rate rebate to a maximum of 80 per cent.

Thirdly, Supplementary Benefit becomes known as income support. This has a higher basic benefit than was previously the case. The discretionary social fund, which accompanies the basic benefit and has proved so controversial, at least has the merit of being possible for recipients and benefit officers to understand. This is in sharp contrast to the previous rulebook which laid down complicated and sometimes irrelevant conditions for a wide variety of special payments.

Overall the Government's reforms make some useful, if not uncontroversial, changes to the structure of the benefit system. To expect agreement also on the level of benefits would be expecting too much.

On the one hand the Government has a duty to look to the condition of the poor. On the other hand, the higher the benefit the greater the demand for it and the smaller the incentive to work. The most recent report from the Social Security Advisory Committee points out that the definition of the poverty line is still based on work which goes back to 1899. Although this has been updated it has not been rethought. If the reduction in the real value of some benefits helps it to be understood that all benefits cannot forever increase, it may mark a bigger social and political shift than the Government now anticipates.

VOTE AGAINST MILITANT

The Civil and Public Services Association was once described as the Khmer Rouge of Whitehall — not by Mr Norman Tebbit or the Institute of Directors but by one of its own employees. Another friendly critic, Mr David Warburton of the GMB general union, likened the bitter in-fighting between the different political groups in Britain's biggest Civil Service union to the streets of Beirut.

Today 140,000 CPSA Civil Servants begin the business of voting for their union executive. Currently it is the only union management body dominated by the Militant Tendency. Militant is keen to keep it that way. Ordinary union members, on the other hand, greet the campaign with little enthusiasm.

They may be suffering from what is known in trade union parlance as "ballot fatigue", having been asked to vote for all-out strike action three times in the last year. On each occasion a majority said no, a minority shouted yes while others voted with their feet and left the union. It was this constant pleading by the capricious executive to take industrial action in protest at the Treasury's pay offer that prompted the derisive *soubriquets* from their fellows. Those Civil Servants who belong to the association cannot, however, afford to remain so aloof.

The CPSA executive is dominated by 18 members from the Broad Left, a group which in turn is controlled by the Militant Tendency. Two seats are held by a splinter left-wing group, Broad Left 84. The National Moderate group starts today's campaign with six seats.

The Militants took control of the union last after a victorious campaign in which they offered a simple slogan to the lower paid workers in the Department of Employment and Social Security who make up a third of the membership. Strike action, they promised, would force the Treasury to concede a 15 per cent or £25 a week increase in their pay.

After a long, wearisome period of selective industrial action, the executive risked a final offensive by asking for a mandate for a national stoppage. The members said no. The Treasury then imposed a 4.25 per cent pay offer.

MURDERING THE LANGUAGE

London policemen who get lost in the muck of their own prose are to be given a guiding hand by Scotland Yard. A research team has devised a so-called "Fog Index," based on the number of polysyllabic words and the length, as one might say, of sentences. The aim is to raise the standard of constables' English.

An index score of 23 is said to approximate to that of an economics textbook and one of 17 to an article in the *New Statesman*. The police target should be 10-12 (says the Yard) or somewhere between *Reader's Digest* and a leading article in *The Times*.

To the public at large a policeman's prose is part of a rich mythology without which the world would be a poorer place. There must be few constables left who would say "hullo, hullo, hullo" except on stage. That other classic "I was proceeding down the High Street classic" in a westerly direction... has also been in a westerly direction. The Panda Car, the walkie-talkie and the inexorable rise of sociology into police ranks.

The traditional measured prose may have been inelegant, like the tread of a policeman's boots or the cut of his cape, but at least it was comprehensible. Those present in court knew what it meant. Indeed, the guiding principle of

policemen's English was the legal requirement for precision. When compared with local government officials, with income tax inspectors and solicitors, their traditional clarity was admirable.

The British bobby would never have won a Nobel Prize for Literature — but everyone in the "manor" caught his drift. Immovable on the corner, with his whistle, he embodied the plain man's guide to spoken English. It is hard to envisage George Dixon, bent over the station typewriter, consulting his Fog Index with a frown.

Now, however, jargon has intruded, bringing with it opacity and pretension. The result is similar to the fate which has overtaken the armed forces. In recent years, the emphasis has been so heavily placed on academic qualifications and seminars that the time left for acquiring practical expertise is so much the less.

The Metropolitan Police should be commended for demanding a swift return to plain speaking. Indeed they might publish their guide for public use. Murdering the Queen's English might just be considered a good reason to call in the Yard.

Putting BBC's house in order

From Mr Ian McIntyre
Sir, Your comparison (leading article, April 9) of the BBC's Deputy Director General with the prophet Jeremiah struck me as far-fetched. Mr Birt is unlikely, in his time at the BBC, to witness the modern equivalent of the destruction of Nineveh, and rough as the corporation has become these days, it is improbable that there will be an attempt to starve him to death in an old well.

There was another occasion some years ago when a BBC panjandrum had to deliver a public lecture. He circulated a draft text to his subordinates with a note inviting comments and saying that suggestions for jokes were particularly welcome. On the night, we dispersed ourselves strategically around the auditorium as all the best claves do, but we could have saved ourselves the trouble. None of our suggestions had been incorporated, and there wasn't a laugh in the whole 47 minutes.

Mr Birt may, of course, have been concerned to inform and educate rather than to entertain. There's a lot to be said for serious-mindedness, though one should be careful about the anaesthetic effect of over-using words like "ethics".

He should also take care not to forget his Kipling: I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I know); Their names are What and Why and When And How and Where and Who.

There was a great deal in Mr Birt's lecture (extracts, April 7, 8) about what was wrong with the media, a little about what should be done, hardly anything about how and why things have come to be as they are. Unless that is understood those who seek remedies are blundering about in the dark, and the sort of one-dimensional analysis he offers is of little use.

Most of the BBC's problems are amenable to leadership. If that is in short supply, a little decent editorial management would do almost as well.

As Mr Birt is currently one of the corporation's six most senior serving-men, he is well placed to do a good deal about some of the shortcomings he identifies. If he remembers that example is always more attractive than precept, so much the better. Yours faithfully, IAN MCINTYRE (Controller, Radio 3, 1978-87). Spylaw House, Newlands Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire, April 10.

The right to know

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information
Sir, John Birt has called for a Freedom of Information Act in Britain. Your recent reports on the King's Cross inquiry illustrate again why it is needed. A constant theme in this and other tragedies, is that safety defects had been recognised but not corrected — a failure made possible because the warnings given were not made public.

The inquiry has now heard (report, April 8) that a senior engineer had criticised falling safety standards on the Tube a year before the fire, and again two days before it; his reports had apparently been ignored. Other recommendations made by official inspectors reportedly met with the same fate.

We do not need to wait for a Freedom of Information Act to put some of this right. On April 15 Parliament will have before it a Bill, introduced by Chris Smith, MP, to establish public registers of enforcement notices issued by safety authorities such as the Railway Inspectorate when premises fail to comply with legal requirements.

The publicity that would result would ensure that notices were dealt with promptly — frequently not the case at present. Moreover, fear of such publicity will be a new incentive to comply with any initial advice so as to pre-empt a formal notice.

This Bill was previously introduced in February, when the Government arranged for it to be "talked out". Readers may recall Bernard Levin (February 11) marvelling at the cynicism of the minister trying to kill a modest and sensible measure which he himself acknowledged (in a private letter that was leaked) could "do little damage and perhaps some good". The Government now has a second chance; perhaps it will accept that it is better we learn of these dangers when they are detected rather than after they kill.

Yours sincerely, MAURICE FRANKEL, Director, The Campaign for Freedom of Information, 3 Endsleigh Street, WC1, April 8.

Touché?

From Mr Bernard Kankas
Sir, The French Admiral who could hardly contain his glee when he heard that a British shipyard had managed to build part of a submarine upside down (report, April 8) needs to be reminded of the Maginot Line: perfectly constructed at enormous cost, but quite useless in performance. Yours, avec beaucoup de respect, BERNARD KANKAS, 13 Lynwood Road, Ealing W5, April 8.

Chinese view of conditions in Tibet

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
Sir, I have read your leading article of April 6 concerning Tibet. I appreciate the measured approach in your description of the Chinese Government's position on Tibet. However, there are some serious misrepresentations of the facts in that article and, in fairness to your readers, I feel I must set the record straight.

1. There is no "continued influx of Chinese settlers" into Tibet, even less have the Han Chinese outnumbered the Tibetan Chinese in the towns. The facts are that in 1959, when the Dalai Lama left Tibet, there were only around one million people in Tibet. Since then the total population in Tibet has risen to 2.2 million with over 95 per cent of them Tibetans. There are some other minority ethnic groups. But the number of the Han Chinese are only 73,000, and they are there mostly on contract for a fixed period of time, working on construction projects and educational and health establishments.

2. Allegations that there is a "general attempt to drown Tibet's unique and ancient culture in the Chinese ocean" are totally groundless. In 1959 there were practically no schools of any kind in Tibet. Now there are 2,400 primary schools, 79 secondary schools and three institutes of higher learning plus a Buddhist academy where for the first six or seven years the students are taught only the Tibetan language and only in secondary school is Han Chinese taught alongside with Tibetan.

Over the past eight or nine years 43 million copies of more than 600 different types of Tibetan books have been published in both the Tibetan and Han Chinese languages. Encouragement has been given to the development of Tibetan folk as well as classical songs and dances. One such group came to visit Britain last summer. More than 200 monasteries and 700 places of worship have been rebuilt and are open to all for their religious activities.

True, serfdom and other similar medieval practices in vogue in Tibet before 1959 have been abolished. But surely that is not quite the same as the destruction of Tibetan culture. The facts are:

we are now making great efforts to preserve and develop Tibet's rich and ancient culture and to guarantee religious freedom to all.

3. There were never five or six million Tibetans. In addition to the two million Tibetans in Tibet itself, there are another two million or so Tibetans scattered in the four provinces surrounding Tibet. But those regions have always been areas of mixed habitation between Tibetans, Han Chinese and other ethnic groups of China over the centuries and admirably they have never been a part of Tibet.

4. Tibet has been an inalienable part of China for over 700 years and recognised as an integral part of China by all nations of the world including the UK, the US, India, the UN, etc. After the 1911 overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, some attempts were made at "independence" by a small number of people with the support of some foreign elements. But no foreign government ever formally recognised such "independence" and by 1920 the then central government of China again sent in its representative to be stationed in Tibet, a practice followed for several hundred years.

The thirteenth Dalai Lama, in 1920 and again in 1929, repeatedly declared Tibet as part of China and said that he realised the importance of safeguarding national sovereignty. In 1939, in accordance with centuries-old custom, the then central government sent a representative to Lhasa to officiate at the inauguration ceremony of the fourteenth, the present, Dalai Lama on February 22, 1940.

For many years now, we have repeatedly declared welcome to the Dalai Lama to return to China. The Dalai Lama himself has maintained channels of communication with the Chinese Government. We welcome his intention to continue such contacts. Our only condition is that he does not demand "independence" for Tibet, which we would never accept. Sincerely yours, JI CHAOZHU, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place, W1, April 9.

Students' unions

From Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North (Conservative), and Mr Morris McWhirter
Sir, The vice-chancellor of City University and the president of the university students' union suggest (April 5) that making membership of the National Union of Students (NUS) voluntary would be a "substantial erosion of freedom". The opposite is the case since, if NUS membership is no longer to be compulsory for each student, a substantial element of individual choice has thereby been introduced.

Instead, your correspondents criticize the project clause 32 of the Education Reform Bill on the ground that this will "leave students without an effective national voice". Their unstated premise is that students will decline to join the NUS on an individual basis. Why are they so pessimistic? Is it because they know that students do not feel the need for the

"effective national voice" provided by the NUS?

The NUS itself knows full well that individuals will not join since that is why it abolished this very category of membership. At the same time it continues to claim 14 million members when all it has are affiliated colleges and universities.

Certainly the NUS closed shop projects a "national voice" but this tends to be representative only of the young and not of wing groups who control it. Most students do not want this national voice. They prefer to speak for themselves and it is surely time the Government gave them the chance to do so. Yours faithfully, RHODES BOYSON, MORRIS MCWHIRTER (Chairman), The Freedom Association, Avon House, 360-366 Oxford Street, W1, April 6.

TV labour inquiry

From the General Secretary of Equity
Sir, I find it disturbing that a first leader, a page 1 story, and a major feature article in one issue of your newspaper (March 30) can deal extensively with matters directly relating to our association without either the facts being checked with us or our being offered the opportunity to comment. One could be forgiven for questioning whether your newspaper has been entirely objective.

In your leading article it is said that LWT cancelled the production of *Betty* "because of the manning levels which the television unions demanded". This is nonsense. The dispute was simply about whether LWT could use agreements which were markedly inferior to their usual ones when, although entirely owning and controlling the product, they had, at a late stage, introduced a so-called independent producer.

The Rylands sale

From Mr John Stephens
Sir, Whatever its morality, the legality, at least, of the proposed [Rylands Library] sale (letters, March 24; April 2, 7, 9) is clear. What is less clear is whether those responsible have any real understanding of what they are doing.

No remotely competent bibliographer would agree that second copies of any 15th-century book are necessarily duplicate, still less when they are printed on vellum or in Grolier bindings. For the student of library history the Spencer and Christie collections are both remarkable documents in the history of collecting and for that reason alone ought to be kept as an entity.

Perhaps the most distressing feature of this sorry affair is that these books are being sold as a measure of first resort. When the prospectus for the Rylands Research Institute was issued in November, 1987, there was no mention that it intended to raise funds in this way, though the decision must have already been made.

Were there no other duplicates that could have been sold? Was any sponsorship from relevant charitable bodies or interested

businesses sought? But of course, if Professor Cox and Dr Pegg were so sure that they had so many mere duplicates, perhaps they did not bother to look further?

The merger of Manchester University Library and the John Rylands Library in 1972 was one of the most imaginative schemes in modern library history. I find it inexplicably sad that the vision and drive then evident has gone and that a great library finds itself in such hands.

I am, Sir, yours etc, JOHN STEPHENS, Robin Waterfield Ltd, 36 Park End Street, Oxford.

Language of flowers

From Mr Roy Fuller
Sir, Apropos Miss Fennell's interesting letter today (April 1), Wordsworth noticed that daffodils nodded (see the note on "I wandered lonely as a cloud", dictated to Isabella Fenwick in 1843), but I think neither he nor his sister can have observed that daffodils in bud shook their heads. Yours faithfully, ROY FULLER, 13 Langdon Way, SE3, April 1.

Safety measure for hijackings

From the Deputy Director of the Institute for the Study of Terrorism
Sir, In most major terrorist air hijackings over the past 20 years the terrorists have used information obtained from passengers' passports to select their victims for murder, torture and extortion. Has no one in airline security thought of collecting all passengers' passports on departure and storing them during the flight in a secure compartment inaccessible from the cabin?

I would suggest that this simple device would have made the selection of the 55 remaining Kuwaitis and crew members in the latest hijack more difficult — even a Lebanese might not find it easy to tell a Saudi businessman from a Syrian one and much more difficult to tell a Canadian from a citizen of the USA.

Furthermore, if the secure passport box could be dropped on landing the names the hijackers themselves had used — and other clues to their identity and origin — could be more easily established, e.g., by identifying false passports such as those used once again in this latest incident.

Yours sincerely, B. ADAMCZEWSKI (Deputy Director), Institute for the Study of Terrorism, 65 Blandford Street, W1, April 8.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 12 1951

President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) was never one to shirk an awkward task. In dismissing General MacArthur (1880-1964) he angered many Americans although his advisers had urged the dismissal.

GEN. MACARTHUR RELIEVED OF ALL COMMANDS

President Truman announced yesterday that General MacArthur has been relieved of his commands in the Far East.

... Mr Truman said, "The cause of world peace is more important than any individual."

In Washington Republican leaders in both Houses attacked the President, and they announced that General MacArthur "would be delighted" to address Congress.

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, April 11. Once again Mr Truman has shown his courage and once again Washington has been taken by surprise. Most people went to bed last night convinced that General MacArthur had survived — at least until next time. But at 1 o'clock this morning the White House issued the text of a statement by the President which read:

"With deep regret I have concluded that General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is unable to give his wholehearted support to the policies of the United States Government and of the United Nations in matters pertaining to his official duties. In view of these specific responsibilities imposed upon me by the Constitution of the United States and the added responsibility which has been entrusted to me by the United Nations, I have decided that I must make a change of command in the Far East. I have therefore relieved General MacArthur of his command and have designated Lieutenant-General Matthew B. Ridgway as his successor.

"Full and vigorous debate on matters of national policy is a vital element in the constitutional system of our free democracy. It is fundamental, however, that military commands must be governed by the policies and directives issued to them in the manner provided by our laws and Constitution. In time of crisis, this consideration is particularly compelling.

"General MacArthur's place in history as one of our greatest commanders is fully established. The nation owes him a debt of gratitude for the distinguished and exceptional service which he has rendered his country in posts of great responsibility.

PERSONAL MESSAGE

To General MacArthur himself the President sent the following message:

"I deeply regret that it becomes my duty as President and Commander-in-Chief of the United States military forces to replace you as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers; Commander-in-Chief, Far East; and Commanding General, United States Army, Far East... My reasons for your replacement will be made public concurrently with the delivery to you of the foregoing order, and are contained in the next following message."

The next following message referred to was the text of the public announcement...

It has been obvious for a long time that there could be no solution to the Administration's problems so long as General MacArthur remained as Supreme Commander, but nobody underestimated the difficulties which Mr Truman would have to face if he took the decision to remove him. He met those difficulties this morning when the Republicans kept to the defence of their idol...



The marriage took place in London on April 7, between James, son of Mr John and Lady William Anderson, and Emily, daughter of the late Viscountess and Philip.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Courting credence

First-time visitors to America are invariably struck by the seamless monotony of its television, a quality both hilarious and rather incredible. Everything — soaps, commercials, even the news — marches to the same drum, and is apparently interchangeable.

The People's Court, bought in by BBC1 for early-afternoon diversion, is a classic outtake from this zone of semiconsciousness. In a mocked-up courtroom a retired judge presides over petty cases for the benefit of litigants whose only concession to the reality principle is that they do not have inaccurate dentition.

It is becoming increasingly hard to find Americans who do not resemble character actors, and on this score yesterday's series-opener failed miserably. A feisty granny of severely restricted nous had an expensive bone to pick with her travel agent (decent, grey, well-spoken — is Joseph Cotten available?) who had tried to explain to her before her departure that she would need a visa in order to enter France, Europe.

Searching for *De Gaulle* Airlines and complaining that the police kept speaking to her in French, granny had been hauled off her train at the border and locked up overnight.

"The judge just did his job", she gamely declared, after losing her televised suit. Judge Joseph A. Wapner (retired) looks and sounds so much more like a Perry Mason gavel-pounder than any fictional judge in television history that one was left with the vague suspicion of having been taken for a ride.

City Tails was the first of three teatime treats from Thames, a peppy and thoroughly old-fashioned kids'-news-authority serial. The children in question are trying to save their urban farm from the unscrupulous clutches of Anton Rodgers in the town hall somewhere in the middle is Alexei Sayle as an honorary child.

In the strict sense of the verb, Sayle cannot act for Toffets, and his agent must have had a brainstorm to let him loose on children and animals, but since his role is essentially that of a cartoon character come to life, this hardly matters. Liverpool fans will note that the farm's duck goes by the name of Everton.

Martin Cropper

John Russell Taylor considers Christian IV (1577-1648), King of Denmark, whose life and times are celebrated in a series of Council of Europe exhibitions all over that country this year

Great if not glorious

Of old kind of a king, one might think, to become a national hero and the subject of one of the great series of Council of Europe exhibitions. But Christian IV of Denmark, though he won only one battle in his entire career and saw most of his grand schemes come to grief in his own lifetime (1577-1648), is, we are told, the single Danish monarch that every man, woman and child in the Danish street could unerringly name and tell you some anecdote about.

And he was, in his own way, a figure of European importance, well-travelled as kings went, a mediator (having given up the idea of being a conqueror) in the Thirty Years' War and a great commissioner of art from France, Holland and further afield — as well as being related by marriage to many of the other royal houses of Europe, through his sister (who married our James I) or his numerous children.

Bearing all this in mind, the subject of the 19th Council of Europe exhibition Christian IV and Europe, which is on in at least a dozen locations in Denmark until September 25, does not seem so bizarre after all.

One good way of understanding the Christian IV phenomenon would be to start at the end, with the "Image for Posterity" show at Aarhus Art Museum (which, exceptionally, is on only until May 23). This chronicles the growth of the legend in Denmark from the end of the 18th century on. Clearly there has been almost from the start something endearing and slightly comical about this king; the incident of his losing his right eye (with characteristic perversity Abildgaard makes it his left) at the battle of Kolberger Heide is depicted again and again, and at Rosenberg one can see the gold holders he had made for the two pieces of metal removed from the eye, as earrings for his mistress.

But there are also popular episodes from his love-life, which produced an amazing number of children, legitimate, illegitimate and, from his morganatic wife Kirsten Munk, somewhere in between. Though losing his eye made him into a sort of martyr (especially as the battle in question lost him most of his Swedish territories), in the main he seems to figure as a jolly and approachable monarch, somewhat along the lines of our own Bluff King Hal.

In Copenhagen there are shows concerning his (surely negligible) skills as a military commander, as an encourager of science and learning, and as an enterprising and forward-looking thinker about trade and economics. His massive Bourse in Copenhagen never managed to be the centre of the money-market he had in mind, but was almost immediately invaded by the



Saved: F.C.Lund's 1858 drawing of The Battle of Öland, from the tapestry by Karel van Mander, which was destroyed by fire in 1859

contemporary equivalent of trendy boutiques: an early example of the covered shopping mall.

More impressive is the main show at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, which concerns itself with art centres and artists in Northern Europe during Christian's reign. In all the eight volumes of his vast private correspondence there is apparently not a single direct reference to the Fine Arts and his own taste in them, but clearly he felt the duties of a monarch to commission and collect art.

And so we see a number of his major commissions and acquisitions, along with kindred works and other paintings and sculptures by artists he patronized. A lot of his acquisitions, like the many Dutch landscapes which decorate the Winter Room at Rosenberg Castle, seem to have been bought by the yard, like wallpaper. But there are also some very impressive

examples of such Dutch mannerists as Cornelis Cornelisz and Abraham Bloemaert, that one suspects must have been to the king's own taste.

Christian would also seem to have been personally interested in the contents of his own Treasury, approving designs for jewels or suggesting modifications, and the "Treasures of Christian IV" at Rosenberg make a dazzling show. But his particular delight, combining as it did the practical and the artistic, was the designing and construction of castles and other imposing buildings.

Rosenborg itself was one of them, and so were Frederiksborg and Kronborg, or as we would say, Elsinore. Both of these, naturally, have major shows: at Frederiksborg one which admirably steers us through the confusions of the Danish Royal Family's genealogy, at Kronborg a show which primarily concerns Christian as a patron of music (John Dowland was court lutenist

and composed his *Lachrimae* in Denmark), theatre and decorative painting.

Most interesting of all, the whole "Kronborg Series" of designs illustrating Danish history is shown. Commissioned from Dutch artists, they constitute one of the earliest programmed attempts to construct a national myth in strictly visual terms.

Last but not least, there is the show of Christian's architectural achievements and projects at Koldinghus, down in the South of Jutland. The reconstruction of Koldinghus itself was one of them, devastated like so many by fire and, unlike most, not rebuilt. Until today, when the ruined wings have been turned, with great style and imagination, into a brand-new museum, by filling in the blanks in an unabashedly post-modern style which respects the ruins even to preserving the grass and weeds growing on them.

CONCERTS

Turned around

NYOGB/Stark
Barbican Hall

The Variations took over somewhat from the Theme last night when the Barbican's British music series served up a concert of such totally disparate ingredients that, by the end, ear and mind were not a little bewildered.

Only the eye could perceive the connection: the three works, by Arnold, McCabe and Vaughan Williams, all required gargantuan resources, and the massed forces of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, almost falling off the edges of the platform, bawled their way through two hours of scores dizzy with dots.

Vaughan Williams's *Sinfonia Antartica* was the main work, but Malcolm Arnold's *Tam o' Shanter* overture was by far the most engaging. In between came a rare opportunity to listen once again to John McCabe's Third Piano Concerto, premiered in 1977, and last night performed by the composer.

The piece is subtitled "Dialogues" and its two parts parade a series of conversations between soloist and orchestra, between piano and select groups of instruments, between harmonies and between rhythms.

It is the rhythmic dialogue which is the most potent. Tempo and pulse are pulled this way and that, knotted and unknotted in patterns of fascinating complexity. On the whole the vast orchestra is used more as toolbox than pail.

Peter Stark, as master-craftsman, shaped and directed with admirable clarity. He had taken over the baton very much at the last minute from Kees Bakels who became ill during rehearsal. Thanks to Stark (he is the orchestra's violin professor) and the authority of their young leader, Geoffrey Silver, Vaughan Williams's great wind-blown symphony was unfolded with both drama and dignity.

Hilary Finch

Lott/Johnson
Wigmore Hall

Hearing Felicity Lott sing "Je l'adore, Brigid", from Offenbach's *La Périchole*, was enough to make anybody's toes curl with pleasure. In this first concert of a series linked to the Stefan Zweig manuscript collection at the British Library.

A programme put together by the pianist, Graham Johnson, it represented a kind of voyage from experience to innocence, as it travelled from Faure and Debussy to Offenbach.

The songs were interspersed with readings from Roman Rolland, Rabelais, Verlaine and other French poets, and authors from the Zweig collection, delivered by Gabriel Woolf in English translation with effective character, if sometimes just too conversationally for complete clarity. They ended with Offenbach, suitably decorated by ironic entries from Flaubert's *Dictionary of Accepted Ideas*, whence came the definition of "concert" as "an agreeable way to kill time".

Time, however, was not killed but cultivated by Miss Lott's singing, and nowhere more excruciatingly than in Debussy's five settings of Rabelais's *Le balcon*, which brought particular distinction to the long unfolding line and searching sentiments of "Le Balcon", with its mood of remorseful sadness.

"Harmonie du soir" became somewhat laboured in its repetitions, by the pianist as well as the singer, but there was surprising beauty in the evocation of mood and scene by subtlety of phrase and tone in "Le Jet d'eau".

The phrasing of Faure's Verlaine settings were likewise a delight, from the calm serenity and tonal beauty given to "Clair de lune" and "En sourdine", as the buoyant spirits of "Mandoline", as the piano's forthright rhythmic accents invoked plangent strumming, to carry the verses along.

They led on to the delectable wit of Offenbach, some beguiling assumptions of operatic character on the singer's part and ample evidence that Gerolstein need look no further for a Grand Duchess (nor Peru for a Périchole) if Miss Lott were ever given the chance.

Noël Goodwin

All in the wrong direction

The Big Picture
Dundee Rep

When a lengthy programme note explains that a brand new show is a "collaborative venture" — devised together by writer, director, designer, choreographer and musical director, there is a nagging doubt that somehow none of them wants to take responsibility for what follows. After all, is not every show a collaborative venture? With *The Big Picture*, Dundee Rep's wildly ambitious climax to their Spring all-Scottish season, you can see why some of the

THEATRE

collaborators might be reluctant to stick their heads over the parapet. The show opens with two childhood friends reunited unexpectedly after 28 years. Inevitably they reminisce and we roll up the black gauze to see them at various stages through their adolescence in the Fifties in small-town Scotland. Not surprisingly, much of their lives is lived through "the pictures": going to see them, dressing like the people in them, pining to be in them. The two principals, Ann Scott

Jones and Colette O'Neill, play Diana and Dorothy, the former sassy and adventurous, the latter shy but cleverer from age 10 upwards. There is no concession to dress but there are some nicely observed childlike mannerisms and some immaculate dialogue by Liz Lochhead.

Diana and Dorothy are also played, very attractively, by a pair of mute young dancers. For this is a song and dance show insofar as each scene is followed by a song or a dance or both together. The dances (beautifully choreographed and danced though they are) are hardly ever more than simply illustrative of what has just happened, and because nothing else holds the show together beyond the passage of time, it is like watching strung out on a clothesline, and as interesting.

The buck must stop with Alan Lyddiard, who nominally directs, for not hammering-out what is perfectly serviceable raw material into something more exciting: not badgering a stronger structure out of the writer, not integrating the choreographer's contribution, not selling the musical numbers harder. *The Big Picture* presumably was there when the Rep assembled all this talent. In the execution, though, it got lost on the cutting room floor.

Robert Dawson Scott

Michael Jonathan
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and
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Judy Meewezen interviews the internationally respected theatre director, David Leveaux, who this week at Leicester presents a Strindberg drama, *Easter*, hardly seen in Britain for 60 years

Doubt before dogma



Pointing out the way: David Leveaux takes a rehearsal for the Leicester Haymarket production of *Easter*

David Leveaux would like to settle in Britain, after a pilgrimage which has carried him to almost every extreme of contemporary theatrical expression. He has worked from the Riverside in London to Joe Chaikin and the New York avant-garde, from Broadway to the Berlin Ensemble and on to the National Theatre of Finland.

At the height of commercial success in New York, he retreated to East Berlin: "I felt a deep need to be educated and to be in a theatre where infinite care was taken, where we had 10 weeks to rehearse." At the Theater in Palast, Leveaux worked with Ekkehart Schall, on the first East German production of a Beckett play, *Krapp's Last Tape*. It was Schall's ambition to play Edgar in *The Dance of Death* that introduced the young director to Strindberg's work and at the same time forced him to question the way that Brecht's legacy has influenced theatre practice.

"Whilst Schall saw only the representation of a bourgeois marriage, I believe that *The Dance of Death* contains a struggle of faith. Strindberg asks the question: 'How do you move into the 20th century from a position in which faith has been demolished?' But from a Marxist position, if such views are expressed, they must also be seen to be impossible foolish."

Theatre, Leveaux believes, must express doubt if it is to survive. As soon as it deals with certainties and solutions, theatre becomes stale and complacent. The complacency he observed in East Germany seemed just as

strong back home in England: "It seemed to me that our theatre had been diverted from its most exciting function, that is the poetic confrontation of difficulties in our time, and had drifted into journalism, with the worst of the pomposity coming from the left."

The only way forward, Leveaux now believes, is to retreat from a position of political commitment "to a theatre that deals with uncertainty as a dynamic, active idea, escaping dogma at all costs."

And it is to Strindberg that Leveaux turns again now as he directs at the Haymarket, Leicester, a play which, somewhat astonishingly, has rarely been seen in Britain since John Gielgud and Peggy Ashcroft performed it 60 years ago.

Easter was written in 1900, at the same time as *The Dance of Death*. A similar struggle for faith is expressed through the several dilemmas of a family, who expect to be damned by creditors on Good Friday because of the past sins of their bankrupt father. With Easter Saturday comes the hope of redemption.

The most challenging of a number of difficult roles is the figure of Eleonora. Arguably the most generously and sensitively portrayed of all Strindberg's female characters, Eleonora dreads being locked away in the asylum again with none to talk to and nothing surround her but plain white walls.

"In terms of European drama Eleonora stands within the 19th, shedding the first tears for the 20th century. She is a visionary. And in *Easter*, at least, Strindberg creates

an interior theatre 60 years ahead of Beckett."

Half way through rehearsals, David Leveaux already plans to tackle the play again: "I'd like more time with it, ideally as part of a long term project working through all Strindberg's plays."

But in May he's off to Tokyo to direct *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, then, perhaps, to Vienna, to accept an invitation from George Tabori. So far, the only tangible sign that the British theatre will harness Leveaux's eclectic passion and commitment is his purchase of a flat in Stoke Newington, London.

● *Easter* by August Strindberg runs at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, from tomorrow until April 30.

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NEW YORK FASHION by Liz Smith

A new obsession

Social signposts are hoisted every now and then when fashion reaches a crossroads. The recent revival of shape and flamboyant style is linked to a new materialistic mood, just as the jeans revolution of the Seventies was linked to feminism.

Calvin Klein is the designer who sensed the change in the mood of free-thinking women a decade ago and provided Working Woman with a softer, sexier style with which to assert herself in the boardroom. Today, in New York, he shows his collection for autumn and winter, previewed here, and once more leads the way, this time with a philosophy for the Nineties.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of his company, which now has a \$1 billion turnover at retail, but it is an event he professes to be too busy to notice. It is, instead, an emotional milestone that he celebrates today with the longer, more demure skirt lengths and gentle, more feminine wide-legged trousers that will go into the first of his own shops, which open this year in Dallas, Boston and Los Angeles.

More significantly for us, the Calvin Klein look, and his new philosophy on life, will be visible in London after an absence of five years when a Calvin Klein shop opens in Harvey Nichols in September.

The 45-year-old designer, whose sales pitch for his revolutionary underwear and jeans pivoted on provocative male and female pin-ups, and whose best-selling scent,



Calvin Klein (left), the American master of the lavish lace dress and the satin sheath, has decided to champion those old-fashioned virtues of romantic marriage and commitment. Today he shows his latest collection for autumn and winter, and he is bringing out a new scent. Its name? Eternity

Obsession, was launched with a series of television commercials depicting a *ménage à quatre*, is today a born-again romantic. His trumpeting of the joys of loving relationships and marriage is not unconnected with his new lifestyle with his new wife, 32-year-old Kelly, a former member of his design team.

"Between love and madness lies Obsession," breathed the androgynous star of his earlier fragrance campaign. The new Calvin Klein scent, to be launched later this year, reflects the designer's radically changed point of view on life. Its silver-stoppered square crystal flask symbolizes, for him, the bonds of marriage. The name of this floral fragrance? Eternity. The idea came from the wedding ring (which was the Duchess of Windsor's

eternity ring) he bought for Kelly, in the sale last year of the Windsor jewels.

"Values have changed," Klein told me between fittings for the show. "All those traditional ideas of romance and real love, commitment to a relationship, and children, are so important today."

The Kleins are putting down roots together. They have spent 18 months restoring a turn-of-the-century shingled house at East Hampton, on Long Island, and will soon move from his stark black-and-white apartment into a townhouse on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. "I am finished with all that minimalism. I want comfort, more things around me, even clutter. I have become a mad collector," Klein says. His view of his own role in fashion is assured:

"I represent modern American thinking. I love women who are sexy-looking and feminine. But women do not need to step back into that old-fashioned role of being decorative objects."

"I make clothes for real women. Whether I cut clothes loose or fitted, they always reveal the body. I don't go in for a lot of applied decoration or silliness," says the man who sculpts the most lavish lace dresses and whistles satin sheaths to within a hair's breadth of indecency.

The strong colours and clean lines of his latest collection have been inspired by his wife. "I kept thinking about Kelly," he says. "To me she is the modern woman, young and busy." Kelly Klein recently became a contributing editor of *W* (formerly *House & Garden*), and spends her weekends riding in competitive events.

The new wide-legged trousers are worn with a narrow cropped jacket with a stand-up collar or under a tent-shaped pea jacket that comes in a vivid yellow rather than the navy blue of yesterday. Black balances the bright hues that Klein introduces for the autumn. He does not dither about hemlines: they are firmly drawn above the knee for the evening.

However, they are ankle-length for grand occasions, and drawn two inches below the knee for the daytime, a length that might easily look frumpy but which Klein believes is young. "Kelly has never worn this length before but she loves it. My daughter (Mara, aged 21, from an earlier 10-year marriage) has tried it on and finds it looks new and successful."

At Klein's right hand these days is Grace Coddington, the former model and fashion director of *British Vogue*, who joined his team as director of design two years ago. Coddington has been encouraging this latest move into Europe, starting with the shop in Harvey Nichols, where short skirts will sell from £100 and evening dresses at around £800.

"I feel good about it," Klein says. "I still have the same basic philosophy of simplicity, but the modern woman is ready for a more sophisticated look."

Far left: Short chemise dress in yellow double-face wool suiting. Left: Pea jacket in yellow double-face melton. Right: The new long line suit in black and white dog's-tooth check tweed. All from Calvin Klein's autumn/winter collection, available from Harvey Nichols in the autumn. Photographs by MICHEL ARNAUD



PEOPLE

Beefcake beckons

First there was designer chocolate, then designer pasta. Now Ralph Lauren, the New York designer with the most international clout, has come up with the ultimate American product: designer steak. Lauren, who successfully purveys the American dream with his snap-fastened Western shirts and jeans, Navajo knitwear and cowboy boots, was on his 13,000-acre Colorado ranch when he discovered that he could not get a decent steak. His ranch manager is now in the process of cross-breeding 1,000 head of cattle to produce beef sufficiently lean and tender to please the boss. Ralph Lauren steak will be marketed with the "Double RL Ranch" brand mark (from Ralph and wife Ricky), not with the fashion logo of a polo player at full canter.

Spooky jewels

Andrew Lloyd Webber has secured some really useful spin-offs from *The Phantom of the Opera*. Licensing deals have been signed to create Phantom jewellery, scarves, jogging suits and even table mats. Phantom mask pins and candelabra and chandelier earrings are proving to be the most successful. Wendy Cell creates her masks in colourful pavé stones set in porcelain. Richard Serbin, whose jewellery has sold in Harvey Nichols and Browns in London, has made 24 carat gold-plated Phantom mask pins and earrings with candelabra pearl-drop earrings and winged angel brooches. "The show happens to fit the baroque mood in fashion at the moment," he says. The jewellery will be available from May and will sell in Phantom boutiques in stores.

Hooray hooah

The parade of stars at last night's Academy Awards, as well as Bloomingdale's "Hooray for Hollywood" promotion which opened last week in New York, provided a unique showcase for the talents of one of America's best-loved designers, the California-based Bob Mackie. Today, as Mackie parades his autumn collection, Bloomingdale's windows show his draped and bugle-headed Jena Crawford gown at \$5,000, a Dietrich rhinestone-plastered trouser ensemble at \$5,700, and a Grace Kelly dress for a cool \$5,600. Inside are 20 of his slashed, feathered and beaded numbers designed for Cher. Elsewhere, departments have assumed familiar names: *The Heiress* is the corner for chunky jewels; *It Happened One Night* supplies slithery white satin lingerie.

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America's Cotton Belt, which stretches from New Mexico across to the Carolinas, produces 14 million bales of the fluffy stuff every year. Long before Memphis became a shrine for Presley fans, it was the cotton capital of the world. American cotton in its many guises — jersey polo shirt and chinos, poplin safari jacket or striped seersucker suit — is being celebrated this week and next at Simpson in Piccadilly.

At its most sophisticated, cotton assumes the gleam of satin and the gloss of a crackly glazed chiselt for this summer's prettiest flower-printed dresses. More basic is the indigo-dyed tough cotton twill of denim which, stitched and riveted in to miners' trousers, has become the staple item that remains America's most significant contribution to 20th-century fashion: a pair of blue jeans.

Ralph Lauren, whose new collection for autumn will be paraded in New York tomorrow, and Liz Claiborne (both fashion empires appear in the latest US *Fortune* 500 listing of the top companies) provide



chunks of the timeless American sportswear that is essential to every holiday wardrobe. Chetta B and the shoe firm Joan & David create the dresser classics for working women in hard-wearing cotton

herringbone tweeds. Diane Freis, a Californian based in Hong Kong, recently added a successful cotton range to her famous frilly dresses in printed silky polyester. Simpson has obviously

cased Seventh Avenue for men's sportswear as well as suits from Schooneman and Southwick, and the famous Hathaway shirts and Countess Mara ties. They import Willis & Geiger's original

bush jackets, complete with tabs and pockets everywhere, as worn by Hemingway. As well as parking a Model T Ford and a Harley Davidson motorcycle on its ground floor, Simpson has wheeled in Victor

Far left: Khaki cotton safari shirt, £105, mid calf length skirt, £75, by Willis & Geiger, Simpson, Piccadilly, W1. Straw hat, £24.99, by Sandra Phillips, House of Fraser, Oxford Street, W1. Kensington High Street, W8 and selected branches

Left: White cotton knee-length dress with tulip skirt, £195, by Chetta B, Simpson, Piccadilly, W1. Make-up by Nikki Whelan. Hair by Carmel for Clifford Stifford. Photographs by DAVID ANTHONY

Mature's red golf buggy and enrolled Mickey and Minnie Mouse (both now over 60) to co-host with the US ambassador, the Hon Charles Price II, tonight's party to launch the celebrations.

Angela Herbert, a 22-year-old from Phoenix, Arizona, who is this year's Maid of Cotton, stops off for the event on her itinerary around the world, which takes in such outposts of the cotton empire as Korea and Hong Kong as well as meeting cotton-pickers in Marks & Spencer stores in Cardiff tomorrow and Salisbury on Thursday.

If you know how many pounds there are in a bale of cotton, or if a cotton seed head is a bud, a boll or a pod, or whether the first cotton seed was planted in Virginia in the 16th, 17th or 18th century, you could win a trip to the Cotton Belt.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.35 *Edgar Kennedy in South Sea* (Cinefax). 6.55 *Weather*.
- 7.00 *Brookside*. First with John Stapleton and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather 9.05 *Come Midnight Monday*. The final episode of the children's drama series from Australia 9.35 *Why Don't You?* 7 Entertaining ideas for children at a loose end.
- 10.00 News and weather followed by *The Littlest Hobo* (r). 10.25 *Children's BBC*. Simon Parkin with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School*, presented by Mike Armit with guest Carol O'Neill (r) and Orian (r).
- 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Steven Pacey with a reading 11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Patsy Cusack and Eamonn Holmes.
- 12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Magazine series presented by Pamela Armstrong, Alan Titchmarsh and Judith Spath. 12.25 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. Will O'Neil is able to replace Paul in Susan's affections? 1.50 *Knots Landing*. The police tell Abby she is a suspect in Gary's murder.
- 2.40 *Complex*. Dina Morgan in conversation with Bryan Gould, MP, and his wife, Gill 3.05 *The Clothes Show* includes a profile of the Zigzag model costume designer 3.30 *Bellamy's Seaside Safari*. David Bellamy, a conservationist, explores a beach (r).
- 3.50 *Sebastian - the Incredible Drawing Dog* (r). 4.00 *Doodle*. A 15 Jerry page. Episode three of the 13-part children's series (r). 4.30 *Knowhow* presented by Johnny Ball, Ann De Calres and Mark Saller.
- 4.55 *Newround* 5.05 *Degrassi Junior High*. Drama series about the pupils and staff of a Canadian school. (Ceefax) 5.35 *Neighbours* (r).
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. 6.35 London Plus.
- 7.00 *Three Up, Two Down*. Domestic comedy series starring Angela Thorne and Michael Elphick (r). (Ceefax)
- 7.30 *EastEnders*. Donna makes a play for Wicky; and Rod asks Darren about accommodation. (Ceefax)
- 8.00 *A Question of Sport* presented by David Coleman. This week Emylin Hughes and Bill Beaumont are joined by Stephen Hendry, Bob Foster, John Embury and Ally McCollick.
- 8.30 *Step by Step*. When even more down on their luck than usual, the two feuding toddlers receive an unwanted visit from two escaped prisoners (Leonard Rossiter and J. G. Devlin) (r). (Ceefax)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather. 9.30 *Crossfire*. The final episode of the drama set in Northern Ireland. (Ceefax)
- 10.30 *Black and White*. The second of five programmes in which two journalists, one black and one white, investigate racial discrimination in Bristol. This evening they go far hunting, individually, to the same places.
- 10.50 *Diana Ross - Red Hot Rhythm and Blues*. The singer in concert with guests Little Richard, Elton John and Billy Dee Williams.
- 11.45 *Weather*.

BBC2

- 6.55 *Open University*. Until 7.20.
- 9.00 *Ceefax*.
- 1.30 *Postman Pat* (r). 1.35 *Saga*. Bunty. Cartoon 1.45 *King of the Bees* (r). (Cinefax). Episode nine (of 12).
- 2.00 News and weather followed by *Sign Extra* (r). 2.25 *Look*. The story of PC Ken Williams and his dream of turning hundreds of acres of land into a permanent wildlife sanctuary (r).
- 2.50 *Children Talking* about emotions to Gerald Harfman (r).
- 3.00 News and weather followed by *The World About Us*. The Swiss music television. How air pilot Michael Jay became accepted as a Samurai warrior (r). 3.55 News, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 *One in Four*. Magazine series for the disabled 4.30 *Junior Darts*. Three more first round matches in the Haywards Potties British Youth Championship.
- 5.05 *My Music*. Lighthearted music quiz set and presented by Steve Race. With Frank Muir, Donal Norder, Ian Wallace and John Arne (r). 5.30 *Gardeners' World* (r).
- 6.00 *One Man and His Dog*. The young handlers' championship, featuring four shepherds each aged under 20 years.
- 6.45 *Architect*. The seventh of 10 films about contemporary architecture (r).
- 7.30 *Wainwright in Scotland*. A. W. is in the north-western Highlands and is happy to discover that the high places have remained as he remembers them four decades earlier.
- 8.00 *Russell Harty's Grand Tour*. In this third of five films Russell Harty is joined by Frank Delaney who shows him around James Joyce's Zurich. (Ceefax)
- 9.00 *The 1988 Oscars Ceremony*. Barry Norman introduces highlights of the Academy Awards presentation ceremony in Los Angeles.
- 10.40 *Newswatch* with Peter Snow and Donald MacCormick 11.25 *Weather*.
- 11.30 *One in Four*. A repeat of the magazine series for the disabled shown earlier at 4.00.
- 12.00 *Open University: World Politics*. Ends at 12.30pm.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am includes *The Morning Show* presented by Richard Keys at 6.30, including national and international news, travel bulletins, weather and sport. After Nine's guests include photographer Richard Young.
- 8.25 *Thames news*.
- 9.30 *Lucky Ladders*. Word game show presented by Lennox Bennett 10.00 *Santa Barbara* 10.25 News headlines.
- 10.30 *The Time... The Place...* Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 *Rainbow*. Puppet series for children 11.25 *Thames news* headlines.
- 11.30 *About Britain: The Great Potato Race*. The story of Jersey's royal potato race to Birmingham to raise money for muscular dystrophy research.
- 12.00 *The Sunbather*. Drama series about an Australian family during the 1940s 12.30 *Quatermass*. Quiz game presented by Matthew Kelly. The guest is Frank Carson.
- 1.00 *News at One* with Julia Somerville 1.20 *Thames news* 1.30 *Quincy*. The medical examiner investigates a drowning at a health spa (r).
- 2.30 *The Treatment*. Medical research into Post Viral Syndrome. Presented by Josephine Buchan.
- 3.00 *The Write Stuff*. Book series presented by Henry Jones 3.25 *Thames news* headlines 3.30 *The Young Doctors*. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.
- 4.00 *Rainbow*. Puppet series for children shown at 11.10-11.15 *The Moomins*. Episode 29 (r). 4.25 *Who's Next* 4.35 *Inspector Gadget*. A new cartoon series. Gadget spends a day on the Norfolk Broads 5.15 *Weather* 5.30 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00.
- 5.45 *News with Alastair Stewart*
- 6.00 *Thames news* followed by *Crimestoppers*.
- 6.25 *Help with advice on the new Social Security changes*.
- 6.30 *Connections*. A new series of the quiz game introduced by Richard Madeley.
- 7.00 *Headlines*. Quiz about famous newspaper stories of the past, introduced by Derek Jameson. This week Nigel Dempster and Philippa Kennedy are joined by Tracey Childs, Danny La Rue, Barbara Taylor Bradford and George Best.
- 7.30 *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*. Comedy series about a group of North-east England brickeys working in Germany (r). (Oracle)
- 8.00 *The Woman He Loved* (see Choice)
- 10.00 *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet and Carol Barnes 10.30 *Thames news*.
- 10.35 *Viewpoint 88: News of Laurels*. Explorer Wally Herbert presents a history of polar exploration.
- 11.35 *Seconds Out*. Boxing from the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, presented by Tony Francis with commentary by Jim Rosenthal.
- 12.35 *Sam Kojak*. The New York detective has difficulty in protecting a colleague from departmental action. Starring Telly Savalas.
- 1.30 *Worlds Beyond*. Guardian of the Past. A young couple take a fragment of bone from a pharaoh's tomb with tragic results.
- 2.00 *News headlines* followed by *Film Tassie* (1984) starring Patsy Biscoe. The gentle tale of a peasant who is forced to poach in order to make ends meet. Directed by Monty Ammend.
- 4.00 *News headlines* followed by *The Company*. Comedy series.
- 4.30 *Nashville Swing*. Country and western music.
- 5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 12.00 *Just 4 Fun: True House* 12.30 *Business Daily*. 1.00 *Sesame Street*.
- 2.00 *The Parliament Programme*. Includes an interview with Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- 2.30 *Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket*. The 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races.
- 4.30 *Countdown*.
- 4.50 *Beaucliff*. Vintage American comedy series.
- 5.30 *The Industrious Bee*. Programme four of the six-part series following the cycle of the bee-keeping year explains bee diseases. (Oracle)
- 6.00 *Land of Hope*. Episode eight of the 10-part drama series about an Irish-Australian family from the late 1800s to the 1970s.
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Trevor McDonald and Sue Carpenter.
- 7.30 *Comment and Weather*.
- 8.00 *Brookside*. Frank is quizzed by the police about the theft of his car and then they search his house. (Oracle)
- 8.30 *Money*. Presenter from the Ulster Hall, Belfast, with Douglas Moffitt discussing pensions.
- 12.00 *News* 12.30pm Closedown.
- 1.00 *News* 1.30pm Closedown.
- 1.30 *News* 1.55pm Closedown.
- 2.00 *News* 2.30pm Closedown.
- 2.30 *News* 3.00pm Closedown.
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Wallis in Wonderland

TELEVISION CHOICE

● "You are moving," says Wallis Simpson's Aunt Bessie (Olivia de Havilland), "into dangerous waters." Not so dangerous, however, on the yacht anchored peacefully off the South of France where the Duke of Windsor is much given to entertaining guests on the bagpipes. "Does he take them wherever he goes?" asks Aunt Bessie. "Just about," says Wallis (Jane Seymour). In *The Woman He Loved* (ITV, 8pm) we are treated to this kind of minutiae of the royal romance, which has already been catalogued on film and television to saturation point, but this time is examined, to the strains of Mantovani-type strings, through the eyes of Wallis herself, or so we must believe. The dialogue is of the "Oh, Ernest, it's like a dream come true" variety; poor Mr Simpson, though, observing his wife being drawn inexorably towards the duke, sees things rather differently. "Your dream, not mine," he responds bitterly. Anthony Andrews, as the duke, pulls in

Jane Seymour and Anthony Andrews as Wallis Simpson and the Duke of Windsor (*The Woman He Loved*: ITV, 8pm)

his lower lip, declaiming his lines in a strangled voice; and there are some cameo performances from a number of distinguished senior actresses, among them Evelyn Laye (Lady Cunard), Margaretta Scott (Lady Wigram) and Phyllis Calver (Queen Mary). The stars are splendid, the gowns beautiful, the settings impressive; and there is a great deal of "come to Britain" scenery. As for the

abdication itself, Andrews reads the renunciation speech in one of the film's really moving moments. Robert Hardy contributes his now well-established impression of Winston Churchill, David Waller is a stern Stanley Baldwin and there are enough shiny one-war cars about to fill several motor museums. Fans of light romance will love it.

Ken Gosling

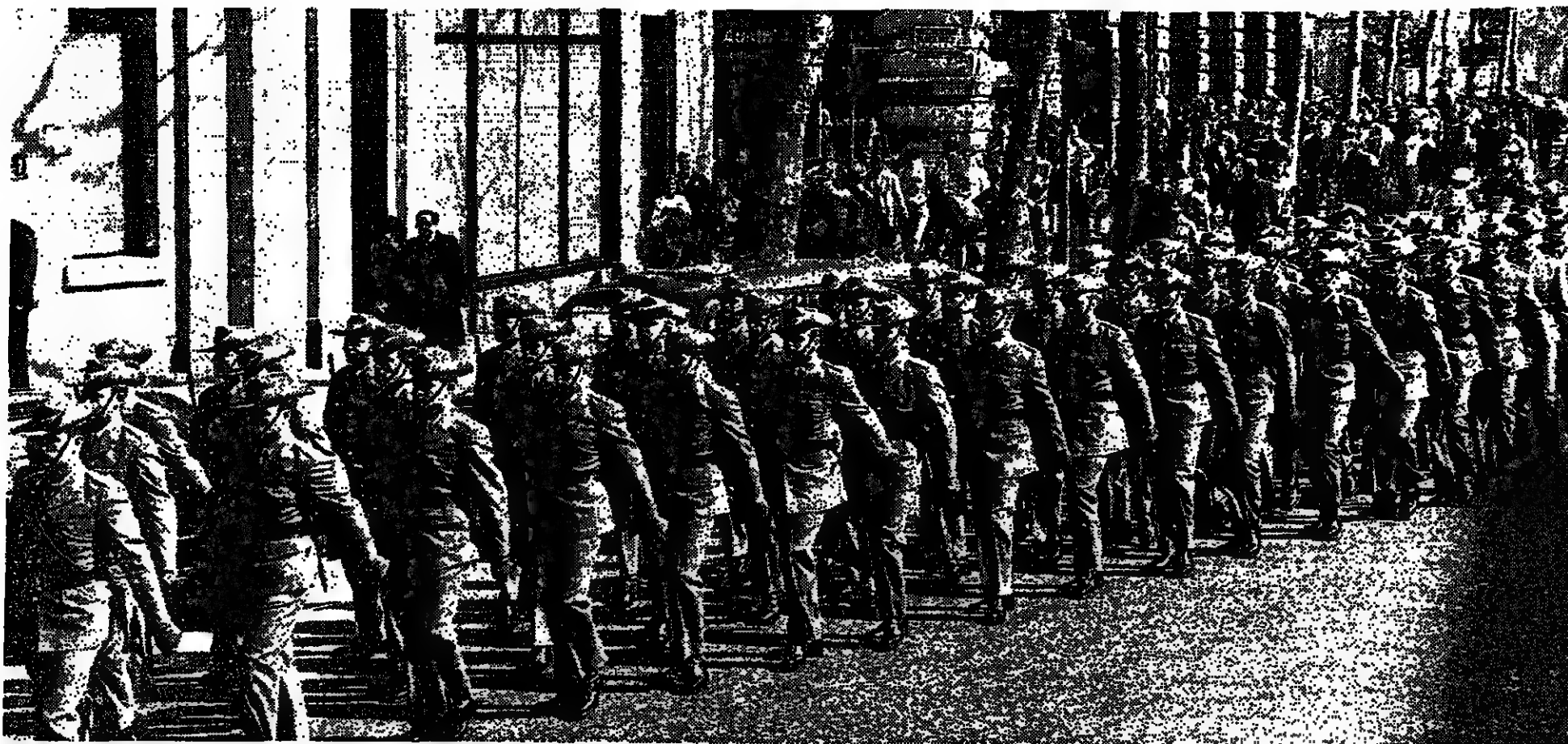
Radio 1

6.00 *News* (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).

6.30 *Adrian John* 7.00 *Mike Smith's Breakfast Show* 9.30 *Simon Bates* 12.30 *News* (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).

12.45 *Frank Patterson* 1.00 *John Peel* 1.30 *John Peel* 1.55 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 2.15 *John Peel* 2.30 *John Peel* 2.45 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 3.15 *John Peel* 3.30 *John Peel* 3.45 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 4.15 *John Peel* 4.30 *John Peel* 4.45 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 5.15 *John Peel* 5.30 *John Peel* 5.45 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 6.15 *John Peel* 6.30 *John Peel* 6.45 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 7.15 *John Peel* 7.30 *John Peel* 7.45 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 8.15 *John Peel* 8.30 *John Peel* 8.45 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 9.15 *John Peel* 9.30 *John Peel* 9.45 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 10.15 *John Peel* 10.30 *John Peel* 10.45 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 11.15 *John Peel* 11.30 *John Peel* 11.45 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 12.15 *John Peel* 12.30 *John Peel* 12.45 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 1.15 *John Peel* 1.30 *John Peel* 1.45 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 2.15 *John Peel* 2.30 *John Peel* 2.45 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 3.15 *John 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An Australian march down memory lane



Union forecast of anarchy for TV companies

By Tim Jones

Independent television companies were warned yesterday they would be "creating a recipe for anarchy" if they backed out of national agreements which have become increasingly controversial following disclosures of massive overtime payments to some union members.

The warning, given by Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the ACTT technicians' union, came as Tyne-Tees Television announced its withdrawal from the ITV national agreements which date back almost thirty years.

Mr Chris Stoddart, Director of Resources at Tyne-Tees, said it was no longer appropriate in the new competitive climate to be party to the agreements. "At Tyne-Tees, we wish to take full control of our own negotiations as, indeed, we have increasingly been doing over the last three years".

At the same time in London, the ITV Association, the joint employers body, was being urged to scrap clauses in national agreements which protect national deals from being undermined locally.

The companies have been emboldened to confront the unions because the introduction of new technology and the encouragement of political support from Mrs Thatcher who is known to regard the industry as "the last bastion of restrictive practices".

Earlier this year, TV-am dismissed 229 ACTT technicians following a dispute over manning during which it was revealed that one man had put in an overtime claim

for £92,000 for three weeks' work.

Tyne-Tees has written to the general secretaries of the four media unions, the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and the National Union of Journalists to tell them it will end its involvement with national agreements from the end of June.

Mr Stoddart said the decision to leave the national TV agreements was "a further logical development to cut loose from the past, and to face up to competition from new programme services and independent producers."

Tyne-Tees took its decision following two agreements with the EETPU - following an acrimonious dispute - and the ACTT, after nine months of negotiation.

Mr Stoddart said the fundamental principles underlying the two agreements are that crewing and hours worked should directly reflect the programme or operation to be done, and should not be based on any previous practice.

Essentially, the agreements provide for the acceptance, without restrictive practices, of flexible working and the operation of new technology.

Motions to consider industrial action against the moves will be put to the annual conference of BETA, which begins in Brighton on Thursday.



Soldiers of the Australian Army Royal Guard marching along the Aldwych outside Australia House in London yesterday, and (right) sharing a joke with the natives. The 187-strong contingent are in Britain as part of the Bicentennial celebrations, and between Saturday and the end of April will be standing guard on Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and the Tower of London.

It was the Australian Army Royal Guard's first duty visit to London for 35 years, and they were welcomed yesterday by Mr Douglas McClelland, the Australian High Commissioner.

With their distinctive slouch hats and brown tunics, the Australian Army Royal Guard have made only three previous visits to London, to mark the 1937 Coronation, the 1946 Victory Parade, and the Coronation in 1953.

Steel set to stay on

Continued from page 1

Mr Steel, who has led the Liberals since 1976, was strongly urged by the majority of his Parliamentary colleagues to stand.

Several of them signed a "round-robin" letter asking him to stay on. Others wrote to him directly. It is understood that both Mr Robert MacLennan, the former SDP leader, and Mr Charles Kennedy, the former SDP MP, have also privately indicated support for his candidacy.

Mr Steel's public comments in recent months had given the impression that he was against the idea of remaining in top-flight politics, particularly after the fiasco of the merger process.

The leadership election consists of a ballot of the entire party membership, with the result being announced at the end of June.

Nationwide protests greet social security reforms

Continued from page 1

changed "if thrift is not to be severely discouraged".

It was unfair that pensioners with a sizeable income but no savings were in a preferential position: people with the old-age pension and an occupational pension would still receive housing benefit but those with nothing but the old age pension and the interest on savings of more than £5,000 would not.

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's spokesman on social services, said that, according to figures from the government actuary, the balance left in the national insurance fund at the end of the financial year would be a record £8,500 million, double the amount recommended as prudent to cover unexpected liabilities.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, he said: "Ministers

are boarding an extra £4,000 million while cutting the benefits of the people the fund is meant to help".

The Treasury contribution to the fund had been cut by £550 million, almost enough to restore all the housing benefit cuts.

The Prime Minister, when challenged today over the alterations, will underline that the object of the reforms is to simplify the system and to concentrate help where it is most needed. Ministers accept there are losers but emphasize that it would be impossible to carry out any reforms if there was a precondition that nobody should lose.

Mr Moore denied that the housing benefit limit was a "tax on thrift". He said that 88 per cent of pensioners would be better off or no worse off. The Government

was helping those with very little; in any reform of the system there had to be a judgement about where that help stopped.

Mr Major, who, as Minister for Social Security, was closely involved in preparing the changes, said they represented a much-needed and long overdue simplification.

He said it was misleading to suggest there was a contradiction between the Budget on the one hand and the reforms. The Budget would help build greater prosperity which was essential if they were to have the resources to meet their obligations to those in need.

He said: "Unless the economy is sound and growing we cannot afford the improvements in social security and other services that we all wish to see. We cannot protect the poor if the country is poor."

Lords sketch Smart host for the yes-no interlude

In many respects, Lord Young of Gifford bears an uncanny resemblance to Mr Michael Miles, the influential television quizmaster who became widely known in the mid-to-late 1960's for his popular programme, "Take Your Pick". Within this extraordinary similarity - up until now largely ignored by political commentators - there might well lie a clue to the character of the present Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Yes or no?

Yes, Gong! It was, of course, one of Mr Miles's guiding rules that his contestants should never utter the words "yes" or "no". If ever they did, the gong would bang, and off they would be. Lord Young sticks rigidly by Mr Miles's principles, applying them to himself with an even greater rigour than he demands of others.

Yesterday, the quizmaster was to become the quizzed when he was due to be called to account for himself in a Private Notice Question from Lord Shackleton. Lord Shackleton believes that Lord Young deceived the House when he implied that there was no deadline to British involvement in the Canadian Radarsat satellite project. Lord Young says he did not. Yes or no?

A few minutes before he was due on, Lord Young trotted into the Chamber of the House of Lords with a brisk and confident air, nodding this way and that to the ranks of parliament, his traditional red clipboard resting in his hand. Lovely you could make it, his expression seemed to suggest, I'm sure we're due for a lot of light-hearted fun.

It is customary for major stars to be preceded by a warm-up artist, often a comedian, to encourage a bit of animation in their reactions. While Lord Young made a few last-minute adjustments to his over-keen double-breasted suit, it fell to Lord St John of Fawley to dust down an old gag or two. County Hall, he drawled, was one of the most mid-e-o-s structures in London, even in the Kingdom. Could it not now be demolished? Boom!

Boom! The Government spokesman couldn't agree. Well, said Olde-Tyme trumper Lord "Uncle Bob" Mellish, if it wasn't the worst building, could he say what was worse? Boom! Boom!

By now, the House was beautifully warmed up, so much so that steam could be seen to rise from some of its most prominent members. Lord Young had finished wiping his spectacles and was now folding and refolding his handkerchief, ready to pop it back, crisp and clean, into his top pocket. He rose, sure-footed both arms out and prepared for his inquisition. In front of him sat his opposing parliament, all with their guns to the fore.

Lord Shackleton said that he would not accuse Lord Young of misleading the House, a trick statement really meaning that he would accuse Lord Young of misleading the House. "I did not mislead Your Lordship's House," declared Lord Young. The position on the Radarsat project was very simple, he said: "We will make up our minds in good time". His bright, somewhat too large white cuffs seemed to twinkle in the sunlight.

"I accept Lord Young's expression of regret that the House was undoubtedly misled", chipped in Lord Shackleton, who was fast revealing that his own knowledge of techniques employed on "Take Your Pick" was virtually encyclopaedic.

"Excuse me", Lord Young, his face reddening, his cuffs quivering, leapt to his feet. "Excuse me but I did not mislead the House. I stand by each and every word I said."

Lord Shackleton then seemed to say that he had not meant to say what he had said about what Lord Young had said he hadn't said, but then he ruined it by saying again what he hadn't meant to say. "Of course I withdraw that remark. I just hope the Noble Lord will come a bit clearer," he said, adding: "It is within the knowledge of the House that the House was deceived."

By this time, the Conservative benches were banging their gongs, demanding that the temporary quizmaster be dismissed. Lord Young sat back, his ordeal over, his smile somewhat less avid than usual. And as for Lord Shackleton, he received the due punishment meted out to so many offenders in our society. Lord Longford sidled over and patted him on the back.

Craig Brown

Raid mix-up kills girl

A Glasgow van driver who thought he was being attacked by robbers ran over and killed a four-year-old girl yesterday in a bid to escape.

When he found that thieves were stealing meat from the rear of his delivery van on the sprawling Easterhouse estate, he accelerated forward but, finding his way blocked by a car, reversed. Unknown to him, he had driven over the girl, Lynn Wilson, who was playing in the street.

The driver, unaware of what had happened, then found that an enraged crowd of between 20 and 30 people

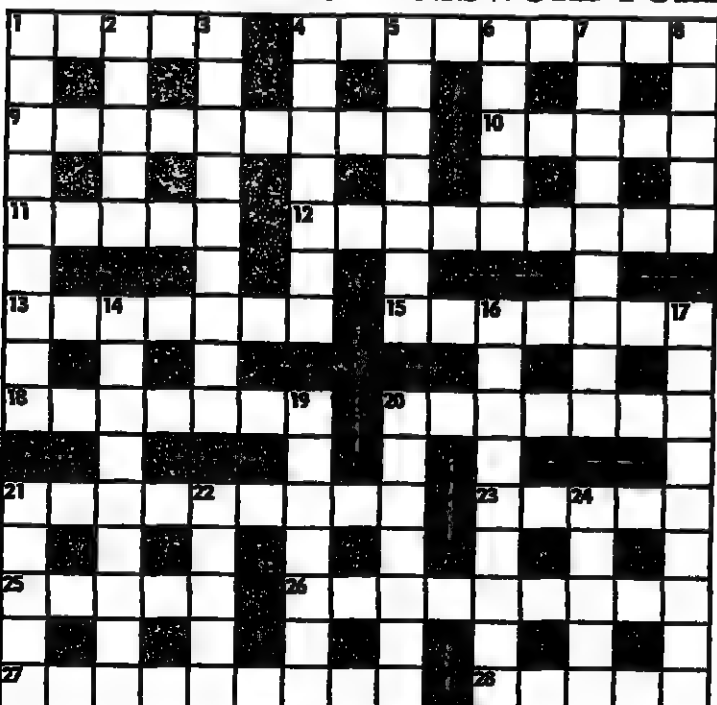
were hammering on the side of his van.

He thought they were part of the gang of thieves and drove forward to escape, running over the child again.

Motorists thought he was a hit and run driver and blocked his exit. The crowd again banged on the sides of the van. One of them, after grabbing a wheelbarrow, smashed the windshield of the van.

A taxi driver, Mr Robert McSorley, said: "The driver was screaming. He kept shouting for the crowd to call the police, but everyone was shouting."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,641



ACROSS

- The monstrous regiment carried the day without me (5).
- Try to complete flight (5,4).
- Rumpus and ruckus reach their ultimate, we hear, in disorderly conduct (9).
- Treacherous person, but one important to a ruler (5).
- In 23 it is shifted by bulldozers (5).
- Making girl more accomplished, that's magic (9).
- Free from constraint - tight by implication? (7).
- Dominant leader interrupts in excessive way (7).
- Relations of a sort with revolutionary (7).
- Admit defeat against one of the top players, we hear (7).
- One thus might appear ridiculous (9).
- Spirit featured in the Arthurian legends (5).
- Put up, by the sound of it, and knocked down (5).
- What Rovers do when game stands about 1-5 (9).
- With what's in the paper, newspaperman is satisfied (9).
- Lets up and stops short of a hundred (5).

DOWN

- Jonah couldn't have given it you, alas! (5,4).
- Doctor, we need the right cutting implement (5).
- Jones is a near one! (9).
- Lever that's altered in some way (7).
- Raises some food for one newly arrived (7).
- Crude dwelling place by salt-water lake (5).
- Pro's one up - blunders deliberately (2,7).
- Look after union's employees, primarily (5).
- Eighty winks? Not to start with, thirteen (4,5).
- Drink, then a row - the end of the story (5,4).
- Latest bit of equipment, man says, is US (3,6).
- When it's dry long grass of course gets covered in dust outside (7).
- Players went ahead, having moved two men (7).
- Cyril's moving words (5).
- Leader of rebellion? Leader of rebellion's inside a cell (5).
- Collect featured in a service (5).

Concise Crossword, page 15

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- QUORATE**
a. A crystal
b. Forming a quorum
c. Measure of speed and direction
- FAMICIDE**
a. A slandering
b. A fictional word-killer
c. Starvation
- PAPHIAN**
a. A Cypriot language
b. A Cypriot
c. Erotic
- PATOOT**
a. The bottom
b. A sweet potato
c. A French selection

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,640

Across	Down
1. MONSTROUS	1. JONAH
2. COMPLETE	2. DOCTOR
3. RUMPUSS	3. JONES
4. TREACHER	4. LEVER
5. IMPORTANT	5. RAISES
6. CRUDE	6. CRUDE
7. PRO'S	7. PRO'S
8. LOOK	8. LOOK
9. EIGHTY	9. EIGHTY
10. DRINK	10. DRINK
11. LATEST	11. LATEST
12. WHEN	12. WHEN
13. ADMIT	13. ADMIT
14. ONE	14. ONE
15. WITH	15. WITH
16. LETS	16. LETS

WEATHER

Scotland will have a cloudy day with a little light rain, falling as sleet or snow on the hills. Most areas should be dry with sunny spells. Southern England will become increasingly cloudy and windy. Rain may spread into southern counties later. Northern Scotland may be cold, but temperatures in most areas will be above average. Outlook: Cloudy with some rain in Scotland. Elsewhere, mainly dry with sunny spells.

ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20
Amman	18-24	SE	15-20

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20
London	18-24	SE	15-20

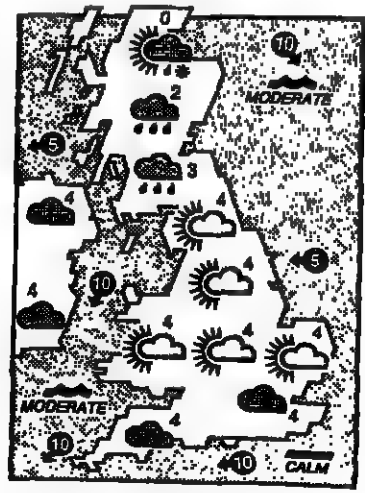
HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0
London	10.50	6.0

THE POUND

Location	Rate
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7
London	103.7

AM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 17C (63F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 0.2 in. Wind: 10 to 15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.7 hr. Sea: 10 to 15 mph. 1,000 mbar - 10.7 mbar.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 0.2 in. Wind: 10 to 15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.7 hr. Sea: 10 to 15 mph. 1,000 mbar - 10.7 mbar.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Forecast day temp: London: 14C (57F); lowest day max: 10C (50F). Sea: 10 to 15 mph. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 10.7 hr. Sea: 10 to 15 mph. 1,000 mbar - 10.7 mbar.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London: 8.23 pm to 5.39 am
Bristol: 8.44 pm to 5.48 am
Manchester: 8.55 pm to 5.54 am
Preston: 9.06 pm to 6.05 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a. cloud; f. rain; r. rain; s. sun.

NOON TODAY

London: 12.54
Bristol: 12.54
Manchester: 12.54
Preston: 12.54

WIND

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1439.8 (+20.4)
FT-SE 100
1810.5 (+30.8)Bargains
25715 (31521)USM (Datastream)
147.05 (+1.78)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8665 (-0.0200)W German mark
3.1291 (-0.0093)Trade-weighted
77.8 (-0.5)Scottish
TV growth
slowing

Scottish Television, which recently made its first diversification outside the television industry by buying Pauline Hyde & Associates, the employment consultancy, for £6.5 million, says that its progress in 1987 fell short of the dynamic growth of recent years.

Pretax profit edged forward from £8.07 million to £8.95 million.

The final dividend is raised from 12p to 13.5p a share, making 17p (15p) for the year.

Cannon ahead

Cannon Street Investments, the USM-quoted industrial holding company, made pretax profits in 1987 of £12.7 million against just £3.1 million in the previous year. The total dividend was raised from 4p to 6p. *Temps, page 26*

Wardle higher

Wardle Stores, the maker of speciality plastic products, increased pretax profits from £5.6 million to £7.7 million in the six months to end-February. The interim dividend was raised by a third to 3.325p. *Temps, page 26*

Veteran dies

Nicola (Rena) - Mr Enkles Papadon, the veteran general secretary of the Communist party, Ake, has died a heart attack, aged 80.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2087.98 (+7.70)
Tokyo	20894.87 (+175.88)
Hong Kong	2681.01 (+31.14)
Amsterdam	2582.00 (+2.00)
Frankfurt	1463.3 (+28.2)
Geneva	1407.2 (+11.0)
Brussels	n/a
Paris CAC	283.6 (+8.2)
Zurich S&K	460.8 (+4.5)
London	
FT-30 Share	1439.8 (+20.4)
FT-100	1810.5 (+30.8)
FT Gold Mines	221.3 (-0.1)
FT Fixed Interest	97.81 (+0.21)
FT Govt Secs	91.05 (+0.04)

Recent issues
Closing prices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

INSEES	
Chrysler Intl	552.5p (+32p)
Caterpillar	577.5p (+20p)
General Motors	355.0p (+20p)
Union Discount	567.5p (+25p)
Body Shop	510p (+30p)
Greenspan House	425p (+20p)
GENE	914p (+18p)
Bentley	855p (+14p)
Deere	855p (+20p)
BP	276.5p (+12.5p)
Calor Group	580p (+21p)
British Rail	681p (+20p)
BAT	484p (+13.5p)
Reuters	544p (+22p)
Rank Org	722.5p (+24p)
Shell	344.5p (+12p)
Southend Prop	165.5p (+15p)

FALLS:
Schroders 900p (-14p)
Accord 165p (-10p)
London & Man 270.5p (-11p)
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base %	9.00
3-month interbank 6 1/2 %	8.50
3-month eligible bills 7 1/2 %	7.75
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 6 1/2 %	10.00
Federal Funds 6 1/2 %	9.00
3-month Treasury Bills 6.04-6.02 %	
30-year bonds 10 1/2 %	10 1/2 %

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.8665	£ \$1.8665
£ DM 3.1291	£ DM 3.1291
£ Sfr 2.5838	£ Sfr 2.5838
£ FF 110.6062	£ FF 110.6062
£ Yen 235.03	£ Yen 235.03
£ Index 77.8	£ Index 77.8
ECU 20.664083	SDR 20.735559

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$450.15 pm \$448.80
close \$449.00-449.50 (\$242.00-242.50)	
New York	close \$450.10-450.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm \$16.30/bbl (\$15.60)
Dutch inland trading price

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'Business as usual' for Ronson on the eve of court appearance

Heron unveils
£100m plan

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

On the eve of today's court appearance on charges relating to the Guinness affair, an ebullient Mr Gerald Ronson, the chairman of Heron International, unveiled a £100 million expansion plan to turn Heron into Britain's largest independent petrol retailer, creating 1,500 new jobs in the process.

He said: "The sign outside Heron is 'Business As Usual'. All our businesses have been expanded in the last 12 months, and the group has more on today both at home and abroad than we have had for a long time.

"We are not cutting back elsewhere to build up the petrol chain. That will be paid for partly out of our cash flow, and our banks are also backing us with a £50 million five-year loan. There are more things in the Heron pipeline including two big town-centre developments to be announced soon, as well as some major housebuilding schemes."

Mr Ronson said he had never been tempted to take the Heron group to a flotation. And he was scornful of ill-founded rumours that he might want to sell up Heron and live abroad. "I don't know what Heron is worth if it went on the market. I don't know what I'm worth. You don't spend your time sitting

down and calculating whether you are worth threepence or two bob - there's a business there needing to be run and you get on with it."

Mr Ronson was not talking about the Guinness case - "for obvious reasons". Today, with other defendants in the case, he appears on remand before Bow Street magistrates in London.

"I am going in with my head held high," he said. "Everybody is being very supportive. It has affected none of our relationships with suppliers, banks and so on. It gives us at Heron a very good feeling."

He and his family had been backed up to the hilt, went on Mr Ronson. "It's the same whether it is business colleagues or those I meet in my charity work - I'm glad to say I still find time for that community work in a 90-hour working week. I must have done a few right things in my time to get this sort of support."

The petrol chain expansion, which will increase the number of Heron outlets from the present 60 to 200 over the next three years, should see the service stations by March 1991 accounting for a fifth of group turnover, which currently is £1.2 billion a year.

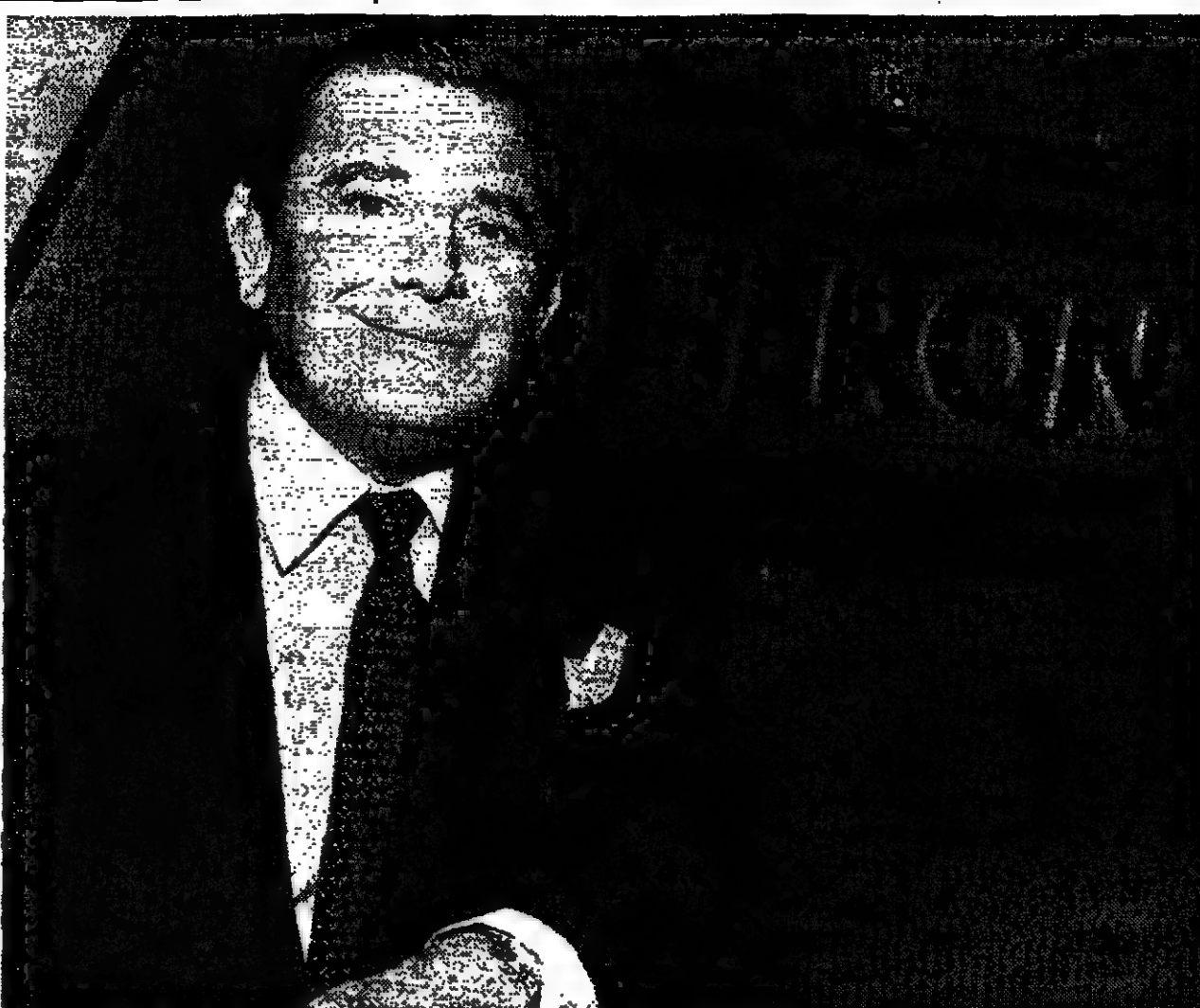
Heron, which pioneered self-service at petrol stations in the mid-1960s, has developed 400 petrol outlets over

the years but sold many of them on to other operators. Now that a combination of petrol sales, convenience shopping and services such as car washes are proving commercially rewarding, Heron is going over to this formula, plus heavyweight branding with the petrol being sold under the Heron label.

The forecourt shops will carry cigarettes, confectionery, hot drinks and fast foods, with the addition of refrigerated items at most units. It is planned to add newspapers and magazines. Discussions with banks are going on to introduce cash dispensers.

The pricing policy is to put Heron in the mid-range between the big operators such as the main oil companies and cut-price outlets. A computerized system for dealing with credit cards - accounting for 30 per cent of petrol sales - should help the Heron chain pump 200 million gallons of petrol a year, or twice the national average per outlet. The aim is to take 3 per cent of the petrol sales market, which would put Heron among the top 10 operators.

Mr Ronson forecast: "Heron's Big H will become a familiar landmark. We are building a business on service and high standards, because through service comes customer satisfaction and loyalty - and that leads to profit."



High hopes: Gerald Ronson at the Savoy in London yesterday, where he revealed his plans (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Oil prices
rise by \$1
on Opec's
firm stand

By Graham Searjeant

Crude oil prices rose by more than \$1 per barrel as surprised dealers reacted to Opec's unexpected determination to control production and to heightened political tension between Gulf states.

After a surge in prices in Tokyo, oil gained a further 30 cents in European trading to take Brent crude for June to a peak of \$16.60 a barrel, compared with a closing US price of \$14.54 on Friday. Quoted prices later shaded to \$16.58.

Saturday's meeting of the price monitoring committee of Opec in Vienna had been thought unlikely to produce substantive action. Instead it called a further meeting for April 23, to include talks with non-Opec producers such as Mexico and Egypt, to be followed by a meeting of all 13 Opec members two days later.

There were conflicting impressions yesterday of what action Opec might take.

Mr Belkacem Nabi, Algeria's oil minister, said he expected a definite decision to cut Opec output.

But Mr Gunanjar Kartasasmita, Indonesia's new oil minister, said it had been decided the time was not ripe for Opec to cut its production ceiling - 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq.

Instead, he suggested, Opec would concentrate on enforcing discipline on those members who were cheating on their quotas.

It is not clear whether Opec will ask non-Opec observers to cut production by part of the 500,000 increase in non-Opec production over the past year or simply not to take advantage of cuts by over-producing Opec members.

Dealers said Brent prices were likely to stay above \$16 until after Opec's meetings.

Shares up 30 points as
dollar stages recovery

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Share prices rose sharply on the London stock exchange as a recovery in the dollar reversed sterling's recent advance.

The FT-SE 100 share index gained 30.8 points (1.7 per cent), pushing the index back up over the symbolic 1,800 level to 1,810.5.

As the new account opened, dealers took their lead from another all-time record high in Tokyo yesterday - the Nikkei average rose 175.98 to 26,924.87 - and Friday's gains on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones index reached its highest level since the October crash. Share prices rose again in New York yesterday.

The dollar recovered against all leading currencies as dealers anticipated supportive official statements and actions at this week's Group of Seven meeting in Washington. It rose 1.3 pence to DM 1.6855 in thin trading.

But the pound also fell against most currencies, producing a sharp drop of two cents against the dollar to close at \$1.8665. The sterling index fell half a point to 77.8.

The pound's rate against the mark, the focus of the Government's internal argument over

interest and exchange rate management, also fell back by just over a penny to DM3.1273 as dealers respected what they saw as a new short-term ceiling of DM3.15.

The pound fell partly in a delayed response to Friday's second base rate cut, exacerbated by an early fall of 1/16 in money market rates after the weekend news from Opec. Three-month money ended 1/16 lower at 8 1/2 %.

Dealers also reacted negatively to the 0.5 per cent rise

in produces prices.

The reversal of sterling's recent strength, particularly against the dollar, was further good news for shares on the stock market.

While industry is more concerned with the sterling/mark rate, the stock market still pays more attention to the dollar rate.

This affects the sterling value of profits from US subsidiaries more immediately than the mark rate affects trading. Many leading companies in the 100-share index

have substantial dollar earnings and some of these recovered well from recent setbacks.

The dollar's gains were helped by a further fall in Japan's trade surplus in March, but owed more to sentiment inspired by expected *bonhomie* between finance ministers in Washington than to substantive changes.

Ministers in Japan, West Germany and the United States all stressed the need for currency stability.

Dealers are, however, awaiting Thursday's US trade figures, generally expected to show a February deficit of about \$11.5 billion (\$6.2 billion).

The industrialized nations have agreed on a new programme to provide more concessional loan terms and greater access to resources for developing countries struggling to grow their way out of debt, a senior US Treasury official said (Bailey Morris writes from Washington).

Ministers attending the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund here are expected to endorse the new IMF programme and specific funding levels this week.

Farmers agree to meet BAT

By Alison Radie

Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company being stalked by BAT Industries, has had a surprise change of heart and agreed to meet BAT representatives.

Farmers is still investigating the possibility of a leveraged buyout.

In a letter to Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, Mr Leo Denes, chairman and chief executive of Farmers, asked BAT to state unequivocally whether it was prepared

to raise its bid from the current \$63 a share and if so to what level.

Mr Denes has offered to reveal confidential information about the company to BAT, so long as BAT signs a confidentiality agreement. He said that "we are prepared to furnish you with the same confidential information which we have made available to others."

BAT has greeted the news with a cautious welcome and its lawyers are examining the confidentiality document. BAT has constantly maintained that its \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) bid could be raised. *Comment, page 27*

Germany's
growth
'above 2%'

By Our Financial Editor

West Germany's economy is set to grow by more than 2 per cent this year, Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the finance minister, said before going to tomorrow's Group of Seven talks in Washington.

That would be an advance on the official government forecast of 1.5 to 2 per cent growth, which had previously been regarded by private analysts as too optimistic.

Many private forecasts at the start of the year suggested growth would be a maximum of 1.5 per cent.

Herr Stoltenberg said, however, that output had been higher than expected in the first quarter. Economic developments in most leading industrial countries had been better than feared after the October stock market crash.

"Now, primarily because of strong growth of private consumption, but also because of positive developments in orders for manufacturing goods in the first quarter of 1988, there is a growth trend of more than 2 per cent," he said.

He added that West German growth was being aided by tax cuts of almost DM14 billion (£4.5 billion) introduced at the start of 1988, and by the stronger US dollar.

Pearson move to
defend Lazard

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Pearson, the industrial, banking and publishing group, yesterday announced a defensive agreement which ensures the independence of its Lazard banking partnership if Pearson is taken over.

Under the agreement, Lazard Partners has the option to buy out Pearson's 50 per cent holding in it if the group ownership changes.

Lazard Partners would be obliged to buy Pearson's stake at a fair market value or at a premium if Pearson changes ownership.

In return for the option, Pearson is to receive a 3.6 per cent increase in its share of the partnership's distributed income, to 53.6 per cent, for seven years.

The arrangement is part of a wider agreement renewing the

partnership of the three Lazard banks in London, New York and Paris for a further 21 years. The partnership was first formed in 1984.

Lord Blakenham, chairman and chief executive of Pearson, said that giving Lazard Partners the option to buy its shares would have happened even without the build-up of the News Corporation stake because of the need to have a clear ownership structure for the banks.

Highland up

A strong first-half performance at Highland Distilleries pushed pretax profits up 19 per cent to £7.3 million on turnover up 7.5 per cent to £71 million. The interim dividend was increased by 12.5 per cent to 0.765p. *Temps, page 26*

SDA chief to be Britoil chairman

By Our Industrial Editor

Sir Robin Duthie, chairman of the Scottish Development Agency, is to be the new chairman of Britoil following its takeover by BP.

He is expected to take over from Sir Philip Shelbourne, the present chairman, after an extraordinary general meeting to be held on April 26 to

approve changes in the Britoil board.

Nominated to the board in addition to Sir Robin are Sir Lindsay Alexander, Lord Arbuthnot, Mr Basil Butler, Sir Campbell Fraser, Dr John Hills, Mr Ian McCutcheon, Mr James Miller and Mr John Saint.

Sir Robin said: "The composition of the new Britoil

board, which has a very strong Scottish content, is, I believe, illustrative of the positive view that BP have taken of their commitment to Scotland."

Britoil's Glasgow office is to become the business headquarters for the combined BP and Britoil upstream business in the British Isles and Norway.

'Banks offer poor and unreliable transfer service'

Money barriers across Europe

From Jonathan Brande, Brussels

Sending money abroad is an unnecessarily slow, costly and sometimes dicey business which does little credit to the banks and is an "embarrassment" in the run up to the EEC's 1992 deadline for a single European market in financial services.

According to a report by the European Consumers Unions Bureau (EUCB), bank customers get a poor and unreliable service in most European countries and fare no better when they pay extra for faster delivery.

Banks are accused of not listening to their clients' instructions, making it difficult to establish the cost of a transaction in advance and sometimes charging both the person sending the money and the payee, even where the remitter has clearly agreed to bear the costs.

Mr Tony Venables, the director of the bureau, said it is often cheaper for the small amounts to be sent abroad by

Eurocheque, made out in the recipient's currency. Eurocheque charges are a standard 1.6 per cent.

The report said charges on transfers of the relatively small sum of 100 European Currency Units (€100) average 9 per cent throughout the Community, although the percentage rises sharply the smaller the remittance.

Out of a sample of 144 transfers of 100 ECU between Community countries, made by ordinary bank customers in May 1987, the bureau claimed two have still not turned up, one was delayed by more than five months and two took more than two months to arrive.

One transfer to go missing was a remittance from France to a branch of the National Westminster in Britain.

The average transfer time was a "not unreasonable" five days between the date the money was debited to one account and credited to the other.

However, those dates may bear no relation to the date on which the transfer was requested.

A comparison of transfer costs showed the United Kingdom was no better and no worse than other European countries, in spite of Britain's commitment to an open financial market.

Costs from Britain ranged between £7.43 for sending cash to Luxembourg or Portugal to £15.35 for a transfer to the Netherlands. In the Dutch transaction, the payee was charged again for costs already charged to the remitter.

Mr Venables said: "The problem raised by international payments and the expenses they involve are an embarrassment, especially in view of the impending establishment of one European market, in which, as seems probable, more and more people will apply to foreign institutions for insurance policies, savings schemes, loans and so on."

"Oh, for heaven's sake, Prichett - let's worry about one thing at a time!"

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Saatchi extends US network in \$2m deal

Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, is expanding its US corporate design side with the acquisition of the West Coast-based Cross Associates for up to \$2 million (£1.1 million), dependent on future performance.

Cross, which employs 25 people and has annual revenues of more than \$2 million, will become part of Saatchi's Siegel & Gale offshoot, after an initial consideration of \$500,000 is paid. Mr Jim Cross, the chief executive, has entered into a three-year service agreement with the British group. His company, formed in 1963, advises clients that include Bank of America, Security Pacific and Chevron.

£546,000 for Executex

Executex Clothes, the tailor supplier, made pretax profits of £546,000 in 1987, against £452,000 previously. Shareholders collect a 1.5p final dividend giving them 3p for the year against 2.5p last time, and will also receive a one-for-five scrip issue. Earnings per share are up from a restated 11.9p to 13.6p.

USM listing for Freeman

The Freeman Group, which provides specialist distribution and contracting services for the building industry, is joining the USM tomorrow after a placing of 1.7 million shares. The placing, to be made through Laurence, Trust, the broker, will raise an estimated £3 million. Freeman Group will initially be capitalized at £12 million.

Spirax-Sarco ahead

Spirax-Sarco Engineering's order level in the first two months of the year has shown an increase in real terms and the group looks forward to another year of growth, Mr Jim Parsons, the chairman, said in his statement in the report and accounts.

Spirax made pretax profits in last year of £18.95 million compared with £16.9 million in the previous year on turnover which was 4.3 per cent higher at £98.8 million. The total dividend was raised to 6.4p from 5.7p. Earnings per share were 16.4p against 14.5p. The group remains determined to increase its world market share and widen its product range both organically and by acquisition.

£1.25m buy for Bullough

Bullough, the industrial holding group, is paying an initial £1.25 million cash for Refrigeration West Midlands, a privately-owned company. Refrigeration, which has two subsidiaries, Westfold Holdings and Lokold Refrigeration, is expected to make pretax profits at a rate of £200,000 a year in the 11 months to October 31.

Theme profit rises by 75%

Theme Holdings, the leisure group quoted on the Third Market, made pretax profits 75 per cent higher, at £711,000, in the year to the end of October. Turnover rose by 64 per cent to £26.7 million and a final dividend of 1.1p per share was declared. Theme operates restaurants in London and the United States.

Comac buys Shuter

Comac Group, which specializes in providing computer systems and programming staff, has agreed its first acquisition since joining the Third Market last June with the purchase of Shuter Smith Group for £700,000. Shuter operates in the same computer field but has a broader European client base. The purchase price will be met by £100,000 cash and the balance in shares. Shuter made between £90,000 and £110,000 in calendar 1987 on a turnover of £2.23 million.

Comac reported an 86 per cent rise in its own pretax profits to £187,144 in the year to December 31 on turnover of £5.79 million. A final dividend of 1.25p a share is being paid, against 1.20p indicated at the time of share placing.

Acquisitive Cannon sets hectic pace

Cannon Street Investments cheered the market with profits almost £1 million better than expectations at £12.7 million pretax.

The stock market crash might have been expected to cramp the style of a company whose existence depends on buying private businesses and grooming them for eventual flotation. The crash has certainly taken its toll of Cannon's share price, which has come down from a high last year at 340p to 274p yesterday, up 5p on the day.

However, Cannon will have no trouble paying cash instead of shares for future acquisitions. Its policy of buying cash-generative businesses, plus the £34 million rights issue of last summer, have provided a comfortable £20 million for the acquisitions kitty. Bank facilities are in place for a further £20 million.

Even in the heady days of the bull market, Cannon managed never to pay more than an exit p/e of about six. It should have no trouble maintaining its policy of keen buying in the new era of lower values.

The hectic pace of acquisitions showed in the results. Twelve acquisitions last year contributed £7.45 million, or 58 per cent of profits. On an annualized basis they would have chipped in £10.3 million. Organic growth, while healthy, with profits from existing businesses up 68 per cent to £5.3 million.

Cannon's investments cover six main areas, comprising construction, electronics, food and catering services, home improvements, industrial services and leisure. It has already made another five acquisitions so far this year for £8.6 million, which should generate annualized profits of £2.5 million.

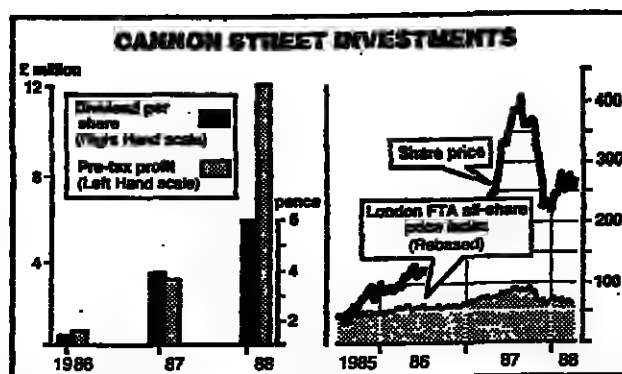
Analysts are expecting profits this year to make another quantum leap to about £20.5 million, but with such an intense acquisition programme forecasting at this early stage of the year is a hazardous game.

The company itself sets store by its earnings-per-share growth and return on capital employed. Earnings on a fully diluted basis were up 80 per cent to 19.2p and the return on capital was a very healthy 36 per cent.

There are no immediate prospects of floating any parts of the Cannon stable, the earliest float dates being tentatively pencilled in for the end of next year. Given the current uncertainty in the stock market, there is no great rush.

Wardle Storeys

The management skills applied by Mr Brian Taylor, chief executive of Wardle Storeys, to ailing manufacturing businesses have, to date, produced the goods. Interim pretax profits have increased sevenfold over the last five years



while earnings have quadrupled.

This has been done not only by improving the operational efficiencies of businesses acquired, but also by refocusing product ranges and stepping up marketing strategies.

Thus, in many of Wardle's businesses, volume is no longer the name of the game. This can be seen by the five-year widening of group margins from 6 per cent to 21 per cent.

The once-for-all benefits from acquiring companies and integrating them into the existing businesses has made the most noticeable contribution to profits growth, but the continuing gains from further fine tuning are proving to be quite considerable.

Growth so far this year has been boosted by the inclusion of Weston Hyde Coated Fabrics. This accounted for more than half of the 93 per cent rise in operating profits from continuing businesses.

Disruption caused by the extension of the Blackmill factory lost Wardle more than £1 million of sales and up to £350,000 of profits. It is still not firing on all cylinders.

Wardle continues to search for acquisitions which are likely to have sales of at least £35 million. Low technology manufacturing businesses without expensive advertising and research and development budgets, which currently earn a poor return on capital, are falling under Wardle's aggressive gaze.

The group learned much from its unsuccessful attempt to take over Chamberlain Phipps last year. This has not deterred it from looking again at a publicly quoted company, but this time more attention will be paid to that most fickle element, investor sentiment.

Wardle has several tranches of valuable land among its assets and is considering putting them up for sale. Profits are unlikely to come

through this year and it has not yet been decided whether they will be treated in the extraordinary or exceptional category.

The group should make £16 million this year, giving earnings of 43p. The shares remain a sound investment.

Highland Distilleries

Like the fresh young heather shoots now pushing through the snow on the Scottish hillsides, new life is stirring through the Scotch whisky industry. Or so it looks, viewed from the perspective of Highland Distilleries.

Against a background of declining British whisky sales, Highland has seen sales of The Famous Grouse, its premium brand, jump 8 per cent in the last half year, giving it an 11.5 per cent market share. Seventy-five per cent of The Famous Grouse sales are in the UK, where it is Britain's second biggest brand after Bell's.

Overseas, where total industry sales have been growing at an annual rate of 3 per cent, sales of The Famous Grouse went up by 25 per cent in the half year.

But Highland's brands account for just 45 per cent of its profits. The rest is new fillings, and orders for new whisky fillings from blenders have risen by no less than a

third since the start of the calendar year. While this may be no more than a one-off replenishment of stocks as blenders reassess their stock levels in the light of projected demand, it will have a beneficial effect on Highland's second-half earnings.

But it may also mean that the industry is gaining confidence in its ability to increase its sales after years of indifferent performance, in which whisky has lost market share to wine and white spirits. Not least could be the effect of the Budget, which has marginally reduced the duty differential between whisky and beer and wine.

The distillers' latest grievance concerns the exclusion of gains on whisky stocks from the capital gains tax exemption on gains made prior to 1982. The industry still pays tax on the sales price less the original cost. Given that much of the increase in value of 10- and 12-year-old malts is due to inflation in the late 1970s, they have a case. It may be that the narrowing of the duty differential compared with other alcoholic drinks is in recognition of this.

The industry still has its problems, but this does not prevent Highland Distilleries from being a successful, fast-growing company generating cash at a prodigious rate. Full-year pretax profits should rise 16 per cent to £14 million, leaving the shares on a deserved premium multiple of 13.4.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 1,882	Comit 710	Lipson 138	Royal Ind 275
Abbey 675	CU 1,082	LAG 222	Saatchi 622
Aldi-Lyons 1,065	Cons Gold 288	Lloyds 1,848	Sainsbury 1,000
Amstrad 320	Coatons 1,863	Lombard 1,116	Sax & N 1,621
ASDA 1,629	Courtauld 223	Luzac 1,184	Sears 3,115
AB Foods 1,659	Delaghy 250	Magnet 372	Seidwick 361
Argyll 1,415	Dave 1,054	M&S 2,249	Shell 2,210
BAA 3,520	Deacons 195	Manxair 79	Smith & N 1,673
BET 1,527	EOC 581	MEPC 565	Smith WH 136
BTH 3,456	Enterprise 6,957	Metall Box 236	STC 1,851
BAT 2,2519	Ferraro 2,552	Midland 529	Stan Chart 1,240
Bardays 2,455	Fisons 2,236	NorthWest 1,448	Surestate 1,753
Ross 324	Gen Acc 301	Next 1,371	Sun Alliance 398
Beaumont 1,846	GEC 7,489	Nin Food 314	T & N 51
Bolton 845	Globe 1,291	P&O 1,857	Tarmac 845
BICC 1,290	Granada 1,426	Pearl 182	Tate & Lyle 622
Blue Arrow 689	Grange 615	Pearson 3,203	Tesco 2,436
Blue Circle 2,040	GUS A 534	Phosag 2,018	Thorn EMI 1,723
BOC 2,401	GUS B 312	Prudential 1,247	Tratagor 2,752
BPS 536	GKN 1,240	Racal 5,503	Thy 1,024
Br Aero 3,581	Quintrex 10,850	RIH 2305	Ultramar 2,028
Br Airways 3,228	Hamm A 50	Rank 319	Unigate 106
Br Comm 2,611	Hamm B 4,268	RAC 495	Unilever 1,000
Br Gas 10,000	Hawker 187	Redland 38	Unid Int 707
Br Power 8,571	Hilldown 526	RTZ 1,500	Unid News 1,012
Br Telecom 1,937	ICI 799	Reuters 1,401	Wellcome 1,043
British 355	ICI 1,300	RMC Gp 436	Whitbread 313
Burd 370	Inchcape 187	RTZ 1,500	Williams 857
Burnham 1,273	Jaguar 522	Royce 1,918	Wick Fab 695
Burns 816	Lasmo 338	Rothman 284	Wimpey G 83
CSW 1,338	Laurence 1,058	Rowntree 724	Woolworth 1,414
Cadbury 465	Land Sec 246	Royal Bank 749	

Wall Street and the dollar help push share prices above 1,800

The latest wave of optimism sweeping Wall Street and the revived fortunes of the dollar were showing signs of rubbing off on investors in London yesterday as the new account made a flying start.

Dealers reported the appearance of a few cheap buyers, clearly hoping for some sort of sustained rally in the wake of a dismal, three-week Easter account which saw the London market fall by 4 per cent. This was in spite of strong performances from New York and Tokyo where share prices have now virtually recovered all their losses since the crash.

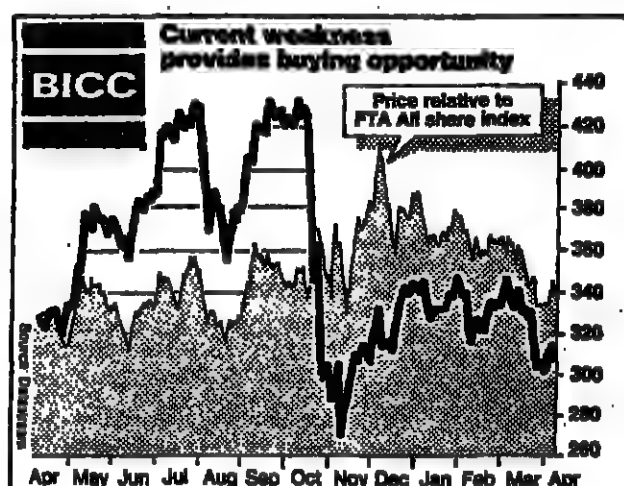
But turnover in London remains pitifully thin with just 405.4 million shares traded on the Stock Exchange computers yesterday.

An estimated £20 billion of spare cash has built up outside the market since the crash and fund managers are clearly content to leave it in the bank for the time being rather than chance their luck in the market. Many of them are being discouraged by the uncertain outlook for the market despite the downward pressure on interest rates and the strong economic climate. The wide spreads being operated by many market-makers with their computerized trading systems has also deterred many investors.

But another steady start to trading on Wall Street after the weekend enabled share prices in London to close at their best levels of the day as the FT-SE 100 index again passed the 1,800 level with a rise of 30.8 points to 1,810.5.

The narrower FT 30 index closed with a gain of 20.4 points at 1,433.8.

Last week's cut in bank base rates has started to have some effect on the pound. But dealers in the gilt market still believe that further cuts will be needed. As a result, prices at the longer end finished ¼ higher ahead of tomorrow's



prevailed before the Budget changes took effect.

This one-off event should not now mask the fact that BICC's businesses are strong, highly cash generative and the Australian economy - where BICC has interests - is performing much better than expected. BICC is a quality company with a strong management team.

BICC reported excellent annual results last month, showing a 27 per cent pretax profit rise to £128 million. CNW are going for £145 million pretax in the current year and £165 million for next year.

Norcor, the building materials group, edged forward by 2p to 420p on speculative support.

Market-makers are not going short of the shares in the belief that another bid for the company is still on the way.

Williams Holdings, which failed in a bid attempt early last year, recently sold its 4 per cent (5 million shares) in Norcor to a mystery buyer.

It has been suggested that the shares were bought by Morgan Stanley Securities, the stockbroking arm of the American investment bank, which, it is thought, might be warehousing them for a client.

BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is the favourite to bid, but Redland, the building group, may also be interested.

RTZ jumped by 20p to 385p as dealers anticipated bumper preliminary profits when the group reports tomorrow.

County NatWest Woodmac is going for a 16 per cent increase in pretax profits to £285 million, while BZW forecasts £275 million.

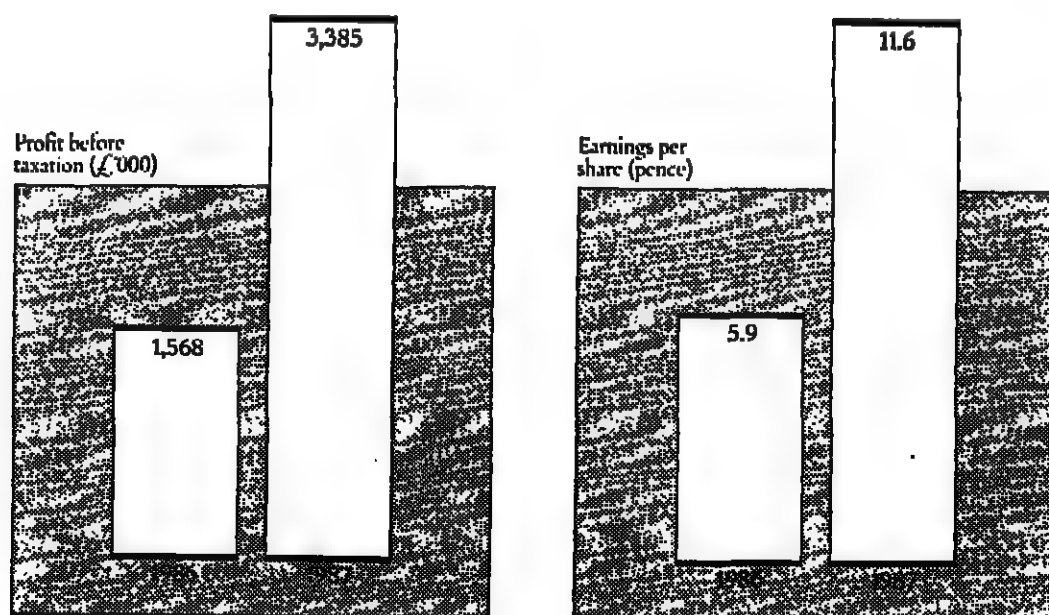
RTZ has been held in check recently by fears that the group is about to hit the acquisition trail. There has been talk that RTZ was on the verge of bidding for Delta, the engineering group.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

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Wace's £3.38m beats forecasts

By Alison Eadie

Wace Group, Britain's largest pre-press production group, beat City expectations with pretax profits of £3.38 million in the year to the end of December, compared with £1.57 million.

The figures were stated on a merger accounting basis.

Turnover rose to £28.3 million from £21.7 million and earnings per share rose 97 per cent to 11.6p.

Mr John Clegg, the joint managing director, said the growth stemmed from good organic growth and the successful integration and rationalization of acquisitions. Productivity last year from existing and acquired businesses rose considerably and turnover per employee went up to £52,000 from £39,000.

Although Wace is the largest pre-press production group in Britain, it has less than 3 per cent of a very fragmented market. It has the finances to go for large acquisitions with £3 million cash left from its £16 million rights issue last September and low gearing.

Wace's net assets grew to £30 million compared with £4 million the previous year, due to property acquisitions.

The final dividend is 2p, the first final since the loss-making days of 1980, taking the total to 3p.

Wace operations cover pre-press artwork for press advertisements, typesetting, printing and marketing services. It is continuing to look for acquisitions in all four areas of operation.

Wace's net assets grew to £30 million compared with £4 million the previous year, due to property acquisitions.

The final dividend is 2p, the first final since the loss-making days of 1980, taking the total to 3p.

Filmtrax's '\$60m deal'

Filmtrax is believed to be paying more than \$60 million (£32.3 million) for Columbia Pictures Music Group and Ivan Moguli Music in a move that will make it one of Britain's largest music

publishing companies. Filmtrax, founded in 1948, has produced music for films including *Room with a View* and *Mona Lisa* while the Columbia catalogue includes *Ghost Busters* and *Star Wars*.



Courtts & Co

Courtts & Co. announce that with effect from 11th April 1988 until further notice the Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:-

3.00% per annum Gross*
2.00% per annum Net (the Gross Equivalent of which is 2.67% per annum to a basic rate tax payer).

Rates are subject to variation and interest is paid half-yearly in June and December.

*Not ordinarily available to individuals who are U.K. residents

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Underwoods in shake-up as it tells of profit decline

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Underwoods, the London-based chain of chemists, fell 8p to 158p on the announcement that the company is undergoing a big management reshuffle, after a fall in profits in the past year.

Analysis is expecting the company to announce profits of about £1 million for the year to January 1988, compared with the previous year's £1.3 million, after Underwoods yesterday admitted it had suffered "disappointing trading figures in the second half of last year, and in particular, the important Christmas period was below expectations."

The company said: "These,

together with the accelerated store opening programme, will result in profits for the year ended January 1988 being significantly lower than the previous year."

Mr Alan Gaynor, brought in as managing director earlier this year, is confident, however, that the company can bounce back in the current year. "This is a good company with a very sound base which has unfortunately lost its way. I am sure the new team which have come aboard can soon put it back on the growth path again," he said.

As part of the sweeping changes announced by Mr Gaynor, Mr Brian Kerner has resigned as group managing

director to become a non-executive director. As the same time the job of finance director — previously carried out by Mr Denis Davis — has gone to Mr Neil Chisman, previously with Coopers & Lybrand Management Consultants. Mr Davis remains finance director of Underwoods (Cash Chemists), the retail subsidiary, until June.

Mr Dennis Casey has resigned as deputy managing director of Underwoods (Cash Chemists), and Mr Henry Padolsey has resigned as marketing director of the same subsidiary. Nominal compensation terms are likely.

Mr Gaynor, aged 37, brought in from the WH

Smith Do-It-All chain after a previous career with J Sainsbury and Asda, has also cut back the central office staff from around 230 to fewer than 150.

He said: "The company realized that some different retailing skills were necessary. We found that some of the branches were making their own decisions about what sort of stock they should carry. The poor second half was caused by the company not being sufficiently geared up for the Christmas trade and the distribution set-up was poor. The other problem was that we opened eight branches in the three months before Christmas, which took up a lot of management time."

Profits ahead at British Island

By Martin Waller

British Island Airways, the charter airline, with Mr Peter Villa as chairman, made pre-tax profits of £1.98 million last year, up from £1.63 million in 1986. Turnover increased from £32.10 million to £38.54 million.

Mr Villa pictured on the tarmac at Gatwick Airport with one of his planes, owns more than 60 per cent of the equity. He said plans for this year included a new headquarters at Gatwick and further expansion of the group's fleet.

Mr Tim Coombe, transport analyst at County NatWest, was a little disappointed at a dividend held at 2p but saw no reason to change his forecast of £2.8 million for the current year.

(Photograph: James Morgan)



Crash dents profits at Fortnum & Mason

By Carol Ferguson

Fortnum & Mason, the department store, increased its pre-tax profits by 19 per cent last year, despite finding itself with too much fashion stock at the year-end.

An excellent performance from food sales which account for half the group turnover, compensated for a less than sparkling year for fashion sales.

Mr Gerald Hamilton, Fortnum's managing director, said: "Loss of our customers' earnings from the City, and were affected by the October crash."

"We bought our stock in July and August, not knowing October was going to happen," Fortnum is now having

an out-of-season sale to dispose of the surplus stocks. "We'll kit you out for Glyndebourne for a third off," Mr Hamilton added.

The strong dollar was still keeping the American tourists at bay, but there has been a compensating rise of Japanese tourists. This, says Mr Hamilton, explains the explosion in the demand for tea. "The Japanese see Fortnum & Mason as a tea house."

Strong food sales, however, allowed trading profits to rise 21 per cent to £870,000 on turnover up 16 per cent to £18.3 million for the 52 weeks to January 30. The dividend for the year was increased by 8 per cent to 44.5p net.

\$1bn Spalvins bid to restructure Adsteam

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Mr John Spalvins has launched the second stage of his restructuring of the Adelaide Steam Ship group (Adsteam) with a \$1 billion (£393.7 million) takeover bid by National Consolidated (NC) for David Jones, the prestige retailer.

The bid follows another last month by Petersville Sleight, the associate company, for Tooth & Company, the brewer.

Analysts believe that Mr Spalvins, executive chairman of Adelaide Steam Ship and chairman of NC, is driven by a desire to reduce both the minority holdings within his group and its potential to incur capital gains taxes.

NC, the Melbourne-based engineering group, is unconditionally offering Aus\$9 for each David Jones share, 40 cents higher than the market's closing price yesterday. David Jones has rejected the offer.

Simultaneously, NC announced plans to raise Aus\$119 million through a one-for-two renounceable rights issue of 49.5 million shares. This is being underwritten by Adelaide Steam Ship, which directly holds 7 per cent of NC. Tooth & Company owns 49.9 per cent of NC.

NC owns 6.5 per cent of the target. David Jones's biggest shareholder is Adelaide Steam Ship itself. It has 47 per cent.

Streamlined Folkes rises to £2.64m

By Michael Tate

Improving economic conditions in the West Midlands enabled Folkes Group, the property and engineering company, to lift pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £2.64 million in 1987. This was despite the heavy restructuring programme undertaken during the year, and a fall in turnover to £55.6 million from £58.3 million.

But an extraordinary item of £1.85 million relating to the closure of the Walsall-based Conson bedroom furniture division, and other rationalization costs have al-

most wiped out group earnings at £333,000. The board has had to dip into reserves to pay the dividend. It is perhaps a mark of its confidence in the future that the final dividend is lifted to 1.25p a share, making a total of 1.6p (1.5p).

Only the property division turned in lower profits, at £1.45 million against £1.6 million, and that only because of lower gains on property sales. Rentals were up by 13 per cent, and higher levels are still being achieved.

Folkes has spent the past year rationalizing its activ-

ities, and re-equipping its industrial operations, in an effort to increase its competitiveness.

Now the restructuring is over, and, with a better first quarter already behind him, Mr Constantine Folkes, the chairman, says he is optimistic about further improving profit performance.

The services division, which made profits of £335,000 against £250,000, is benefiting from its new building, equipment and buoyant demand. The sale of the Gilbert T Bell steel stockhold-

ing business has released cash for mainline activities.

In the engineering division — profits up from £150,000 to £200,000 — work has begun on a £2.5 million modernization programme that will give the group one of the most cost-efficient high-quality bar conversion plants in Europe. Last week it acquired Hydraroll, which manufactures for the cargo handling industry, for £1.2 million.

And in consumer products, which made £655,000 against £400,000, demand for Eveready kitchen furniture is good, says Mr Folkes.

Red letter day for Shearson

Whoops! The curt farewell letter sent out by Shearson Lehman Brothers last month to all Messrs 1,800 erstwhile private clients, advising them to take their accounts to Nivison Cantrade, the stock-broking arm of the Swiss Banque Cantrade, seems to have met with a far wider audience than was originally intended. The letter, which advised clients that, as of March 31 "we will no longer be in a position to execute orders on your behalf," adding that, failing any communication, "stock and/or outstanding monies will be returned," prompted, I hear, a flurry of incredulous telephone calls to Shearson Lehman from those most highly prized of investors, the institutional fund managers. For an over zealous computer had apparently dispatched identical letters to practically every City institution as well. Determined to drive the message home, it had even sent several copies to some of the bigger players, with the mighty Prudential receiving no fewer than nine. So hot were the telephone lines between Messrs' salesmen and the said institutions that one of the brokers buried his head in his hands at one stage and cried "Oh God, not another one." "It was a computer error and rather embarrassing," admitted a spokesman for Shearson yesterday. Unless, of course, the computer knows something that he doesn't.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Going for touch down

Yuppie high-jinks in Hounslow followed a rugby match between traded option dealers from BZW and a team fielded jointly by Hoare Govett and Warburg on Sunday. With the challenge laid down by Wedd — the match was organized by its senior dealer David Hodges — the underdogs, captained by Alex Macpherson (and helped by blue button Bruce O'Grady who scored a hat-trick) were insufferable in their celebra-

tions after managing a surprise win with the final score 38-16. But the tables were turned when match-tested Warburg supporter John "The Marks" Shires, prevented from participating on the pitch by his insurance policy, left to go home. His £35,000 red Porsche cabriolet had vanished. It was discovered at the far side of the muddy field — pushed there, of course, by Wedd.

Robin's song

Likening the merger of Wood Mackenzie with County NatWest to the Death and Resurrection, WoodMac's Edinburgh-based investment trust analyst Robin Angus yesterday published a celebratory hymn to be sung to the tune of "We plough the fields and scatter." With the chorus being, "All good trusts around us. Show bargains by the score. So deal with us! Then deal with us some more!" the hymn is accompanied by the instruction that, "Clients should sing it to themselves quickly and then hurry off to the phone with an order or three, to wish us well in our new incarnation." Good to see that Angus still has a sense of humour.



● The job situation in the City is like a revolving door. While scores of brokers have yet to be made redundant in the financial services recession, some City outfits still deem themselves to be operating in a growth market. Among the "Situations vacant" columns in yesterday's newspapers I spied an advertisement for a senior accountant to fill a "high-level investigative accountancy post." The would-be employer? The newly established Serious Fraud Office.

A rebel bows out

David Bailey, director of institutional equities at Phillips & Drew, has become the latest old timer to quit the City of his own accord. "It was a lot more fun in the old days," says Bailey, who departed last week after 18 years with the firm. "The hours have become impossible, and commuting in from Newbury on top of a 70-hour week leaves me with no time for anything else." His reputation as something of a rebel at P&D, dates back to his days at Southampton University at the end of the '60s — he was involved in two sit-ins there as well as the LSE occupation, sporting long hair, beads and bare feet. He eventually applied for a job as a salesman at P&D only because his flatmate bet him 10 shillings that he couldn't get a job in the City. Still only 39, and described by John Davies of 3i Portfolio Management as "one of the best institutional salesmen I have ever dealt with," Bailey doesn't intend to retire completely. He plans to establish a consultancy to advise on future City developments, to become involved in venture capital and to help his wife, Sue, run their Crafty Cat craft shop and tea room in Newbury.

● Among the latest batch of appropriate names — James Capel's Tokyo food analyst, Mr Chew, the secretary in Sotheby's wine department, Miss Swallow, and the funeral director in Hull by the name of R Boddy.

Carol Leonard

Publishing Holdings to sell its magazines

By Joe Joseph

Mr Greg Thain's Publishing Holdings, whose magazine titles include *Equity International*, *What Mortgage* and *What Investment*, is negotiating the sale of its magazines division as part of a plan to focus on database management and its premium telephone services like Sharecall.

Details are expected to be finalized by the end of April. Mr Nigel Harrison, Publishing Holdings' business development director, said: "We've spent six or seven months looking at the group in terms of our direction and the resources we had available and the feeling was that the magazines didn't really fit with our core activities in database management, marketing and telephone information systems."

"The magazines are doing well, but they are at a stage where they need a heavy investment of resources to keep them competitive in the long run."

"We decided we were not going to commit the resources needed."

The magazines currently provide less than 40 per cent of the group's turnover and less than 20 per cent of profits, while accounting for more than 55 per cent of overheads.

Publishing Holdings, which joined the Third Market in January last year, made pre-tax profits of £168,000 on a turnover of £3.7 million in the half year to last August.

Equity International — which has survived an inauspicious start by being launched in the same week as last October's stock market crash — has already been bought out by its management.

It has paid £40,000 for the title.

Mr Ray Heath, its editor, says that he has no plans to change the direction or content of the publication and reports that advertising revenue has been flowing in again following the recovery in world stock markets in recent months.

The sale of Publishing Holdings' six other magazines is still being negotiated, although it is likely that they, too, will be sold en bloc to their management.

COMMENT David Brewerton

The rights choice for Lucas pension fund

The pensioners of Lucas Industries are about to dip their work worn hands into their pockets to invest £24 million in the company which keeps them in Old Holborn, Lucas Industries.

The trustees of the pension fund meet this afternoon, and the question of the Lucas rights issue is likely to be on the agenda. If not, then it will come up for air next week. Chairman of the trustees is Bob Brown, a name familiar to Lucas followers as he is also finance director of the company. Yesterday, he would not be drawn on whether or not the trustees, three from the boardroom plus three from nearer the shop floor, are likely to commit new money to the company, but he did point out that in the past the trustees have supported the company's fund raising efforts. In return, Lucas maintained its rate of dividend when it might otherwise have been reduced.

The National Association of Pension Funds is not at all enamoured of pension funds investing in the shares of their sponsoring companies, and in some countries it is against the law for them to do so. In this country, the thinking has been muddled, but the opinion of most trustees is that there are plenty of alternatives to investing in the host company, and it avoids conflicts of interest to shop elsewhere. But, for pension funds which have invested already, or may wish to invest in future, in their host companies, a new set of guidelines, "best practice", are being

written by a working party and will be published within the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, those guidelines will come too late for the trustees of the Lucas funds, even if they postpone the rights decision until next week. The trustees are on their own, and although the percentage of the funds invested in Lucas, at less than 4 per cent, is no big deal there is an important issue at stake. The trustees have the opportunity to follow modern thinking and take advantage of the rights issue to allow their 14.3 per cent stake in Lucas to be diluted, allowing the underwriters to do their duty.

But at the same time, they may wish to back yet again a company which seems to be going places. They have come to no harm backing the last rights issue at 365p in 1985, and are unlikely to suffer by pitching into the latest effort at 500p. That is, however, to miss the point. Trustees would be better advised to avoid the potential conflicts of interest and invest outside their own companies.

The trustees of the Lucas funds are unlikely, however, to change the habits of a lifetime, and are all set to plough their money into the rights issue. It is as well for them that the issue does represent a cheap way into Lucas shares. Now it is up to the company, including the chairman of the pension trustees, to demonstrate it can use the money well.

Heartening news for BAT

The long and painstaking \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion) bid by BAT Industries for Farmers Group has entered a new phase.

After more than six months of refusing to pay any attention to BAT's overtures, Farmers has suddenly agreed to meet BAT and reveal confidential information. Intriguingly, Leo Denlea says in his letter to Patrick Sheehy that the same confidential information would be available to BAT as to others so long as BAT signed the enclosed confidentiality agreement.

Farmers does not reveal who the others were and why they were privileged with such confidential information, begging the question whether the Los Angeles insurer had been looking for a white knight without success? BAT's lawyers are now poring over

the six-page confidentiality document. If all is found to be acceptable, the two sides will meet to talk about a price for the offer. BAT is clearly not going to be stampeded by Farmers' deadline, expiring today, to name a higher price.

However, the chances of Farmers extracting a higher offer as the price for agreement are high. BAT could pay up to \$70 a share, against the current offer of \$63 a share, without incurring any dilution. And BAT has always maintained that it wanted an agreed deal and wanted to retain the Farmers' management.

Farmers may, of course, just be making conciliatory noises to ward off potential shareholder criticism at the annual meeting next month. But the admission that the sale of the company is under continuous review must be heartening for BAT.

DIAMOND SERVICE

GUESS WHO'S FIRST INTO AMSTERDAM?

It's not British Airways. Not even KLM. Only British Midland can fly you into Amsterdam by 9.00am — and put you on the last flight out.

In fact British Midland have more weekday flights between Heathrow and Amsterdam than any other airline. Which means our schedule will fit your schedule.

And every British Midland flight to Amsterdam is Diamond Service. Which means you get the full Business Class treatment.

If you fly to Amsterdam, you know which airline means business.

HEATHROW - AMSTERDAM - AMSTERDAM - HEATHROW			
07.00	09.00	07.25	07.25
08.15	10.15	09.30	09.30
11.00	13.00	11.30	11.30
12.15	14.15	13.30	13.30
14.15	16.15	15.30	15.30
16.15	18.15	17.30	17.30
18.15	20.15	19.30	19.30
20.15	22.15	21.00	21.00

THE MOST WEEKDAY FLIGHTS BETWEEN HEATHROW AND AMSTERDAM.

B R I T I S H M I D L A N D

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end April 22. \$Contango day April 25. Settlement day May 3.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (us) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUME: PAGE 26).

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251	Power Press	180	170	170	21
252	Press Machine	180	170	170	21
253	Press Security	180	170	170	21
254	Press	180	170	170	21
255	Press	180	170	170	21
256	Press	180	170	170	21
257	Press	180	170	170	21
258	Press	180	170	170	21
259	Press	180	170	170	21
260	Press	180	170	170	21
261	Press	180	170	170	21
262	Press	180	170	170	21
263	Press	180	170	170	21
264	Press	180	170	170	21
265	Press	180	170	170	21
266	Press	180	170	170	21
267	Press	180	170	170	21
268	Press	180	170	170	21
269	Press	180	170	170	21
270	Press	180	170	170	21

[illegible]

SHOES, LEATHER				
285	45	Hudson	83	0.8
190	190	Lancet	59	17.8
141	170	Shore	200	14.7
367	190	Polo	59	6.8
		Stacy & Famer	220	14.7
		Stacy	270	5.8
TEXTILES				
418	260	Allet Text	345	12.8
190	170	Bank Lamm	225	17.3
180	181	Beckman (A)	120	7.9
190	24	Deben	190	10.3
285	107	De Waker	197	7.3
126	55	Gesal	83	1.2
524	190	Contrails (a)	345	2.2

28	58	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272	274	276	278	280	282	284	286	288	290	292	294	296	298	300	302	304	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320	322	324	326	328	330	332	334	336	338	340	342	344	346	348	350	352	354	356	358	360	362	364	366	368	370	372	374	376	378	380	382	384	386	388	390	392	394	396	398	400	402	404	406	408	410	412	414	416	418	420	422	424	426	428	430	432	434	436	438	440	442	444	446	448	450	452	454	456	458	460	462	464	466	468	470	472	474	476	478	480	482	484	486	488	490	492	494	496	498	500	502	504	506	508	510	512	514	516	518	520	522	524	526	528	530	532	534	536	538	540	542	544	546	548	550	552	554	556	558	560	562	564	566	568	570	572	574	576	578	580	582	584	586	588	590	592	594	596	598	600	602	604	606	608	610	612	614	616	618	620	622	624	626	628	630	632	634	636	638	640	642	644	646	648	650	652	654	656	658	660	662	664	666	668	670	672	674	676	678	680	682	684	686	688	690	692	694	696	698	700	702	704	706	708	710	712	714	716	718	720	722	724	726	728	730	732	734	736	738	740	742	744	746	748	750	752	754	756	758	760	762	764	766	768	770	772	774	776	778	780	782	784	786	788	790	792	794	796	798	800	802	804	806	808	810	812	814	816	818	820	822	824	826	828	830	832	834	836	838	840	842	844	846	848	850	852	854	856	858	860	862	864	866	868	870	872	874	876	878	880	882	884	886	888	890	892	894	896	898	900	902	904	906	908	910	912	914	916	918	920	922	924	926	928	930	932	934	936	938	940	942	944	946	948	950	952	954	956	958	960	962	964	966	968	970	972	974	976	978	980	982	984	986	988	990	992	994	996	998	1000
28	58	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272	274	276	278	280	282	284	286	288	290	292	294	296	298	300	302	304	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320	322	324	326	328	330	332	334	336	338	340	342	344	346	348	350	352	354	356	358	360	362	364	366	368	370	372	374	376	378	380	382	384	386	388	390	392	394	396	398	400	402	404	406	408	410	412	414	416	418	420	422	424	426	428	430	432	434	436	438	440	442	444	446	448	450	452	454	456	458	460	462	464	466	468	470	472	474	476	478	480	482	484	486	488	490	492	494	496	498	500	502	504	506	508	510	512	514	516	518	520	522	524	526	528	530	532	534	536	538	540	542	544	546	548	550	552	554	556	558	560	562	564	566	568	570	572	574	576	578	580	582	584	586	588	590	592	594	596	598	600	602	604	606	608	610	612	614	616	618	620	622	624	626	628	630	632	634	636	638	640	642	644	646	648	650	652	654	656	658	660	662	664	666	668	670	672	674	676	678	680	682	684	686	688	690	692	694	696	698	700	702	704	706	708	710	712	714	716	718	720	722	724	726	728	730	732	734	736	738	740	742	744	746	748	750	752	754	756	758	760	762	764	766	768	770	772	774	776	778	780	782	784	786	788	790	792	794	796	798	800	802	804	806	808	810	812	814	816	818	820	822	824	826	828	830	832	834	836	838	840	842	844	846	848	850	852	854	856	858	860	862	864	866	868	870	872	874	876	878	880	882	884	886	888	890	892	894	896	898	900	902	904	906	908	910	912	914	916	918	920	922	924	926	928	930	932	934	936	938	940	942	944	946	948	950	952	954	956	958	960	962	964	966	968	970	972	974	976	978	980	982	984	986	988	990	992	994	996	998	1000
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28	58	178	180	182	184	186	188	190	192	194	196	198	200	202	204	206	208	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224	226	228	230	232	234	236	238	240	242	244	246	248	250	252	254	256	258	260	262	264	266	268	270	272	274	276	278	280	282	284	286	288	290	292	294	296	298	300	302	304	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320	322	324	326	328	330	332	334	336	338	340	342	344	346	348	350	352	354	356	358	360	362	364	366	368	370	372	374	376	378	380	382	384	386	388	390	392	394	396	398	400	402	404	406	408	410	412	414	416	418	420	422	424	426	428	430	432	434	436	438	440	442	444	446	448	450	452	454	456	458	460	462	464	466	468	470	472	474	476	478	480	482	484	486	488	490	492	494	496	498	500	502	504	506	508	510	512	514	516	518	520	522	524	526	528	530	532	534	536	538	540	542	544	546	548	550	552	554	556	558	560	562	564	566	568	570	572	574	576	578	580	582	584	586	588	590	592	594	596	598	600	602	604	606	608	610	612	614	616	618	620	622	624	626	628	630	632	634	636	638	640	642	644	646	648	650	652	654	656	658	660	662	664	666	668	670	672	674	676	678	680	682	684	686	688	690	692	694	696	698	700	702	704	706	708	710	712	714	716	718	720	722	724	726	728	730	732	734	736	738	740	742	744	746	748	750	752	754	756	758	760	762	764	766	768	770	772	774	776	778	780	782																																																																																																													

253	123	Testated Jersey	185	177	+8	8.8
690	248	Tennessee	489	228	+2	8.6
151	97	Texas	104	108	+6.5	8.2
189	30	West Coast	34	41	+1	3.4
376	173	Yokohama	207	217	+2	10.1

TOBACCO						
709	399	BAT (m)	423	438	+13.7	23.2
138	118	Carroll	125	145	-	-
499	177	Redington W (m)	407	412	+7	11.2

● Ex dividend ÷ Ex all ÷ Forecast dividend ÷
 payment based ÷ Price at suspension ÷ Divi-
 yield exclusive a special payment ÷ Pre-merger
 Forecast earnings ÷ Ex other ÷ Ex rights ÷ Ex

TELEVISION

True colour for Olympics

By Catherine Arnst

Japanese viewers will be able to watch the Olympics this year on television sets with such sharp detail and realistic colour that it will seem as though they are watching a high-quality film.

The broadcasts of the summer games from Seoul, to 200 television sets in 50 public locations throughout Japan, will be the first large public demonstration of the biggest advance in television picture quality since colour was introduced.

They will also represent a victory for the Japanese in their battle with European and American broadcasters, manufacturers and governments over standards for the new technology.

At issue is high-definition television, usually referred to as HDTV, a technology that makes television images as sharp and detailed as the best quality movies.

Because Japan is by far the leader in development of the technology, nationalism and politics have become an important aspect of HDTV's development.

European and American companies are trying to prevent the loss of yet another consumer electronics market to Japan.

Television today is transmitted as images broken into 525 horizontal lines, called scan lines. HDTV expands the number of lines to 1,125, creating an image as sharp as 35 mm film. The new format also expands the television screen to a rectangle with a width-to-height ratio of five to three, instead of the four to three ratio of conventional sets.

The wider screen matches the dimension of cinema screens and does not cut off the sides of films as current television sets do.

The problem with HDTV is that it requires a band width five times wider than is allocated to traditional television signals, making it incompatible with existing broadcast equipment and television sets.

Japan's government-owned national broadcasting company, NHK, has been developing HDTV for almost 20 years, and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industries has budgeted over £8 million this year to promote the relevant technology.

NHK has scheduled the first broadcast of the technology in 1990, by a specially-launched satellite.

But the NHK system's signal is still too wide for the standard broadcast spectrum in Europe and America.

The fear is that unless an alternative to NHK is developed quickly, the Japanese standard will become dominant, forcing broadcasters to adapt or lose business.

In Europe, Philips of the Netherlands is developing an HDTV system similar to that of NHK that also does not work on existing television sets.

Officials of the European Community are trying to bring political pressure to bear on Japan. EEC officials met with Japanese representatives for three days last month in an effort to persuade them to make HDTV equipment to Western broadcasting standards rather than their own. But the talks produced only a glimmer of cooperation.



Professor Graham Nudd: "Several thousand times greater throughput"

Mapping with a camera from a base in space

By Nick Nuttall

A computer system which could revolutionize the way cameras mounted on satellites, submarines and land-based vehicles map roads, crops and monitor missiles and military movements has been designed by scientists at the University of Warwick.

They have just begun building a prototype machine with a £148,000 grant from the United States Navy.

Led by the British computer expert Professor Graham Nudd, who has also received British government funding, the researchers believe they could have solved a fundamental problem in computer-controlled imaging - how to extract a specific set of images, say roads, from a whole picture at the same rate that the camera receives them, without the need for cumbersome machines.

Professor Nudd, who returned to Britain in 1985 from the US after 20 years with the Hughes Aircraft Corporation, explained: "A typical camera works out between 30 and 50 frames a second, so in one third of an hour the camera receives one fifth of the data it needs to process."

"A typical machine will work now at about a million operations a second, but to do all this imaging processing you need something from several hundred to several thousand times greater throughput."

One route to achieving this has been to stick lots of machines together, all working in parallel, to create a giant computer, which can do a hundred million operations a second.

However, the Warwick team believes a simpler and more efficient solution can

be achieved by breaking down the processing into a hierarchical or pyramid structure where communication is parallel across the pyramid, and also up and down the command chain from the top's more intelligent master processors to the simple slaves at the base.

Lashed up to the camera and a visual display screen, the computer is programmed to take pictures of, say, roads on earth.

At the base of the computer's pyramid, simple front-line slave processors which are being built by Warwick scientists, pick up tiny bits of information about light intensity, or pixels.

This data is relayed upwards to an

more sophisticated processors which know edges of a certain width and light intensity mean a road.

They put these edges together, relaying images to the visual display and commanding the rest of the system to extend data collection to see how far the target image goes.

Professor Nudd believes the key to the model's speed is the two-way interaction of all the different or heterogeneous processors, where superfluous light intensities are filtered out up front.

However, he also believes the way Warwick is mixing and matching its processors in a hierarchy of intelligence is also playing a crucial role in the design's success.

"You end up with less information but it is much richer information on the subject you wish to view," he explained.

Professor Nudd emphasizes that their design is just one of many angles which scientists around the world are pursuing.

However, if the prototype lives up to the theory the implications are profound, which is clearly why the US Navy has taken such an interest.

Not only does this mean the recording of vital information such as a submarine's movements in port, but that it is not lost as orbiting satellites whizz round the earth battling to produce meaningful images from a wealth of incoming data.

The system will allow users to react more rapidly to a situation as pictures on a specific subject are received almost instantaneously, instead of the 20 to 60-minute delay currently experienced with contemporary machines of a comparable size.

You are very bright. I am very dark. There must be an edge.

array of more sophisticated processors called transputers, which are typically arranged in eight groups of eight.

The transputers, which can handle much larger pieces of data, are in communication with each other and individually responsible for a batch of slaves.

From the information they are receiving from the front-line troops, the transputers may say to each other: "You are very bright. I am very dark. There must be an edge."

Above the second battalion are even

The personal touch

By Kevin Pearson

IBM is soon expected to launch a new model in its Personal System/2 range of personal computers which were announced just over a year ago.

The new model 70, will use the powerful 32-bit Intel 386 chip like its larger relative, the model 80, but will be a desktop system rather than a floor-mounted tower system. There will be two versions of the processors with different speeds - the more powerful machine giving about 20 per cent more performance than its smaller cousin. The larger version will also have a higher basic memory - two megabytes rather than one.

It will offer similar performance to the model 80 but substantially lower expansion capabilities featuring only three expansion slots, compared with seven for the model 80.

It can only have a 120 megabyte hard disc - equivalent to about 32,000 pages of A4 paper. But even that is larger than most hard discs in use today. The model 80 can handle twice that amount of data along with internal tape drives and optical disc drives.

In February IBM cut the cost of some PS/2 systems by between 14 and 17 per cent. The new model is likely to be priced under £4,000 and will fill a gap in IBM's range.

Minis move into a micro market

From Geoff Wheelwright in New York

Distinctions between the micro and mini computers continued to blur last week as mini manufacturers moved into systems that compete directly with so-called superminicomputers that cost under £10,000.

The first came from Hewlett-Packard (HP), announcing new minicomputers with one costing less than £5,000 putting it firmly in competition with some PCs.

It was a move that HP had to make as it and many other minicomputer manufacturers have recently started to feel squeezed by the growing power of personal computers.

An alternative approach was taken last week by Sun Microsystems, a maker of specialist graphics workstations which last week launched a new range of PCs based on the powerful 386 chip to counter the growing number of rivals, such as Compaq, moving up from the PC market.

Recently Sun has started to push a system that uses Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC). Hewlett Packard seem to be in agreement with this approach as its new minicomputers depend totally on the use of RISC technology for their success.

RISC is seen as a way for manufacturers to increase power and facilities on minicomputers without the huge base of software and data that

their customers will already have on existing systems.

Much of HP's response is aimed at Digital Equipment (DEC) which has pushed the virtues of a unified mini-computer product line for the past year. Last week DEC also announced new mini-computers which touted this approach, dismissing others using the Unix operating system as "snake oil" that didn't deliver what was promised.

DEC's new Vaxstation 2000 machine, in particular, is supposed to add the company's line of low-cost mini-computers in the same way as Sun and HP's latest machines.

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TECHNOLOGY

GE claims hot new ceramic breakthrough

Robert Matthews

Scientists at General Electric in the US have made a great breakthrough in the development of microelectronic devices able to exploit the properties of high-temperature superconducting materials.

Since the discovery in 1986 of ceramic compounds that lose all their electrical resistance when chilled with liquid nitrogen, scientists have sought ways to incorporate this relatively simple way of achieving superconductivity into existing technology.

For example, using superconducting interconnects made of the yttrium-based ceramics between microchip elements opens up the possibility of cramming far more computing power into smaller volumes.

This is because, having no electrical resistance, the interconnects would generate no heat when current flows through them, allowing components to be packed more densely.

Greater computing speeds would result, simply because the electrons in the circuits have less far to travel.

Until now, however, efforts to incorporate the new materials into electronics have been stymied by the fact that laying

down strips of the ceramic materials on the silicon conventionally used in most electronic devices leads to "interdiffusion", and the disappearance of the superconductivity phenomenon.

Dr Antonio Mogro-Campero and his colleagues at the GE research team claim to have overcome this key difficulty.

He explained: "What happens is that the components of the superconductor mix with those of the silicon or silicon-dioxide substrate, causing a re-arrangement of elements. This destroys the superconductivity; you no longer have yttrium, barium and copper at the approximate 1:2:3 ratio required."

GE has found that the interdiffusion problem can be overcome by putting a layer of the compound zirconia between the superconducting layer and the silicon or silicon dioxide.

The zirconia is deposited on to the silicon, using electron-beam evaporation, in which the heat generated by high-energy electrons is used to boil off zirconia from a source, with the vapours then condensing on to the silicon.

The researchers were able to lay down a 0.4 micron-thick layer of zirconia on their test



Eye to eye on a great microelectronic development

specimens of .24in. by .75in. rectangles of silicon cut from a wafer.

The copper, barium and yttrium layers needed for superconducting ceramics were then laid down sequentially, and the whole "sandwich" annealed at about 850 degrees Celsius to convert the elements into a ceramic superconductor.

In subsequent experiments, the team has managed to get the "sandwich" to supercon-

duct at liquid nitrogen temperatures.

Dr James Bray, manager of superconducting systems at GE's research centre, said: "We still have a way to go before the technology becomes commercial."

However, GE believes that silicon devices exploiting the new technique could have the edge over more expensive gallium arsenide-based devices, which are currently used when speed is of the essence.

Chief scientists lead on pay

SALARIES

By Matthew May

Chief scientists are doing best in the science and technology pay stakes, according to a management salary survey from the Reward group. They feature as the third highest paid in a survey of 25 industry groups, ranging from advertising to sales.

Chief scientists now have an average salary of £22,295, about 10 per cent higher than the national average for their rank.

Peter Brown of Reward lists privatization down as one reason behind the boost. He adds: "The percentage of senior scientific and technical people in the private sector is increasing."

Research and development managers are not faring quite so well, with an average salary of £20,000, having seen an annual increase around seven per cent compared to 10 per cent for chief scientists. But

Mr Brown puts some of this down to the way big companies, which usually pay better, often using the title "chief scientist" to denote a "job that in smaller companies is called R & D manager."

As previous surveys have indicated, computer managers are still losing ground. The survey says "The assumption that accountants and computer managers are the highest-paid is not supported. Indeed, computer managers reach only sixth place in the highest-paid table."

As managers have had to become increasingly computer-literate, so to it has demystified the data processing department. Mr Brown comments: "Computer managers are no longer seen as the magician at the centre of the company."

Average salary is now £21,000, with a yearly increase of 7.7 per cent, little more than the average for all industries. Systems analysts had rises of only 3½ per cent, although analyst/programmers continued to forge ahead with an average rise of more than 10 per cent.

The average salary for a new graduate is £8,500 and the pay for those who stay "shoots up much faster than other employees", the report says. Many companies are reviewing salaries for new graduates at six-month intervals.

For those with science and technology degrees, there is still a boom in recruitment, although, says Mr Brown, this possibly excepts chemistry graduates where, because so many have studied chemistry at school and continue at university, there tends to be an over-supply.

A recent report from the National Computing Centre on the skills shortage in information technology estimated staff at 19,400 people, with a further need for at least 50,000 more people over the next five years.

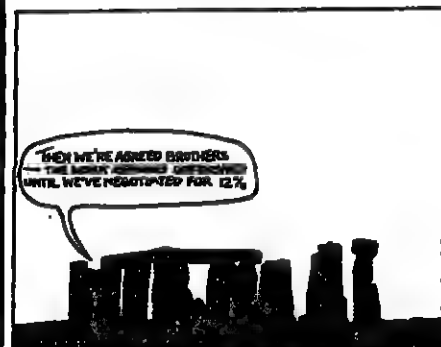
But getting a degree in computer science may not be the answer. Some graduates with such degrees are considered unsuitable for employment in information technology. Only 14 per cent of trainees recruited as systems staff over the last two years had computing science degrees, according to the NCC survey.

HOW THE PICTURE CHANGES

	Lowest quarter	Median	Highest quarter	Annual change %
Chief scientist	19,153	22,295	26,025	9.8
R & D manager	17,050	20,000	23,650	7.1
Computer manager	17,500	21,000	25,393	7.7
Data processing manager	15,929	18,295	21,000	7.6
Information services manager	14,843	17,084	19,415	4.3

Source: Reward Salary and Living Cost Report

A chance to fly to a tropical isle



This is the third of our four weekly competitions to find the lighter side of new technology. We are asking you to provide different captions to the two cartoons illustrated above - preferably relevant to computing or high technology.

You may think of a new caption for either one or both of the cartoons and submit as many entries as you please enclosing the logo, top right, in each case.

This week The Times/CMG competition would like to tax you with two levels of technology from different eras, one of them probably the world's oldest, if specialized calculating device. Unless you have a caption proving differently? It is just a suggestion and you do not have to take any notice. Judging by the entries so far, you probably won't anyway.

Though the mock accent that comedians use for Freud is impossible to reproduce in print we wish it were. He would certainly have had something to say about the continuing British passion for lavatorial humour, demonstrated in our entries so far. Captions for the cartoon shown below on the left covered toilet rolls, paper dispensers and associated television advertisements. There were also plenty of rude jokes about the awful clothes of one of the characters shown in the cartoon on the right.

The caption for the winner of our first week's competition is shown below with the cartoon on the left. He is Stanley Alderson of Cambridge and wins a week for two on an island somewhere. He might, however, not get



"This is exactly my favourite way of unwinding - rumour of blank computer printouts, my eyes, test, Doc, of your long white empty tropical beaches"



"First you forget logarithms. Then you forget how to do long division. Then the multiplication table begins to go..."

Runners-up for captions for the same cartoon are Dave Dixon of south-west London for "You wouldn't happen to have any relatives working for the Met Office I suppose?", L.R. Parkes of Little Hadham in Hertfordshire for "So you think you have problems," and John Woodmans of Exeter for "I don't care what your network says, I am not lending you 10 quid to put on the 2.30 at Lingfield."

For the cartoon on the right runners-up are Roger Pugh of Westbury in Wiltshire for the caption printed underneath, W. Hetherington of Washington in Tyne and Wear for "So QWERTY is a small town somewhere in France. Tell me Malawaring, how long have you been our systems analyst?", F. Greene of Axminster in Devon for "We find it easier to keep them all in a low-level alphanumeric Stacked Register - what used to be called a card index," and John Dunthorne of London SW11 for "When we said 'openings in Macintoshes' your predilection wasn't quite what we had in mind."



"This is the prototype under my finger - the production model will be miniaturized of course"

THE TIMES



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WEEK THREE

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● In addition, the winners and runners-up will receive suitably-inscribed and framed copies of the cartoons which show both the original and the new captions, with something to toast their win.

HOW TO ENTER:

Cut out the appropriate cartoon or picture and The Times/CMG competition logo at the top of this page, write your captions clearly on a sheet of paper and attach to the appropriate cartoon with the logo, and then add your name and address and daytime telephone number (if any).

Send your entry to: The Times/CMG Humour Competition, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU, to arrive no later than Monday, April 18.

The winners of this week's competition will be announced on April 26 with the first prize, for the best of the four weeks entries, announced on May 3.

The winner's lunch will be in London on May 17. Runners-up unable to attend will be sent a generous voucher for lunch at a local restaurant at a time of their choice.

Air traffic at risk as radio navigation takes the strain

By Pearce Wright

A warning was given last month that air traffic would face "intolerable delays" in the next decade unless Europe's existing radio navigation networks were replaced by a more accurate and standard system.

The problem, examined at a special meeting called by the Royal Institute of Navigation, in London, is not restricted to the safety and efficiency of airline operations and military aircraft.

It is of equally vital importance to military and civil shipping, including leisure boats. Further, it could be crucial to replace the old systems if the application of radio navigation technology to the untapped market of land vehicles is to succeed.

The dilemma stems from the piecemeal development of radio navigation in the post-

war years. Replacement of those ageing and incompatible networks would probably cost the European governments £50 to £100 million in capital costs and up to £10 million a year in running costs.

All radio navigation systems need a network of transmitters. Their radio beams mark out the lanes along which to guide the world's airline pilots. The signals also provide seaborne navigators with the information to make an accurate fix of their positions.

But a different receiver is needed for each transmission system. And by an accident of history, Europe has inherited a mixture of systems, some usable irrespective of the type of vehicle, others confined to aircraft or ships, some military, but none designed to meet a standard set of criteria.

As a general rule, governments pay for these networks

and the users buy the receivers. But the ranks of those users have suddenly swelled from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands. With the advent of the low-cost microprocessor, electronic position-fixing has in the last five years become a practical proposition for the myriad of small craft and opened the possibilities for cars and lorries.

Unlike the haphazard situation in Europe, the United States has an agreed federal radionavigation plan, with a timetable for phasing out obsolete systems and replacing them with new technologies for position-fixing.

As it happens, three of the main systems covering Europe are maintained by the US government at no cost to the user.

Though the experts agree it is time for a unified European system, they are divided over the choice of new ground-based or satellite technologies.

The key part of the American plan is the US Global Positioning System, GPS, a worldwide, satellite-based navigation system. Developed for the military, it is on offer for civilian users.

One specialist in satellite technology who questions the desirability of adopting a military-controlled radio navigation aid for civilian purposes is Wally Blanchard, a former RAF navigator and director of a firm called Navigation Management. He proposes an intriguing cheap satellite scheme in which ground-based chains of transmitters are replaced by leasing channels of commercial communications satellites to transmit navigation and positioning signals.

Commercial cloning nearer

A new and powerful biological technology that enables livestock breeders to clone large numbers of identical animals from a single embryo is nearing commercial application in the US and Canada.

The cloning technique is the latest in a series of breeding technologies that have allowed animal scientists steadily to separate reproduction in livestock from natural mating and thereby gain much tighter control over the hereditary traits of cattle, pigs and sheep.

What breeders lacked, though, was a reliable technique for precisely duplicating superior animals. With the cloning technology, scientists are closing in on what has long been the ultimate objective in modern husbandry: achieving the same levels of uniform quality and production in farm animals that were once thought to be confined only to manufactured goods.

Moreover, the ability to successfully clone large mammals hints at the possibility in years to come that similar techniques might be devised for humans. Over the last 30 years, advances in animal reproduction technology have often presaged similar developments in human reproduction a decade later.

The technology marries cell fusion, a common technique used by molecular biologists, with several widely used animal reproductive technologies, the most important of which is the ability to transfer animal embryos from the genetic mother to a surrogate.

But animal cloning is unlikely to be widely available until the costs of the procedure decline, and the reliability improves.

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Richard Marsh: co-founder of a computerized recruitment service

Two former bosses of a recruitment agency have set up a computerized recruitment service, hoping companies will bypass the recruitment agencies when they want to fill a job and turn straight to their computer screens.

Richard Marsh and Bob Birch, the two directors of the service, called the Shortlist, are offering companies access to a database of candidates via a videotape terminal.

Mr Birch said that the system should work particularly well for jobs in high technology.

It costs nothing for the job-seekers to go into the system — it is just the potential employers who pay an annual subscription of £7,745, which includes a Sony videotape terminal and printer, connection to the service and

unlimited access to one list of candidates.

The lists will range from medical and pharmaceutical, hotel and travel, to computing, communications, sales and marketing. Subscribing to each additional list costs £2,245.

The claim is that companies could save considerably, particularly if they recruit several people per year, because no fees are charged for successful recruitment.

Most of the subscriptions Mr Marsh and Mr Birch have already pre-sold have been of the lists for people in high technology. Companies signed up include Dixons, Express Foods and National Westminster Bank.

Mr Birch said: "In high-tech areas, people have a fear that their CVs are being sent around willy-

JOBSCENE

By Caroline Berman

nilly by recruitment agencies, and they could end up in the wrong place, and this could get embarrassing, but with our system all the end user sees is a brief resume of the candidate on the screen.

"The potential employer asks for the full cv and we don't release these details unless the candidate agrees. The candidates have 100 per cent control over who sees their CV."

Another reason they hope that the system will work well in the high tech field is that there may be people with certain skills in some parts of the country, but there may be a shortage elsewhere.

They hope to have at least 50,000

candidates on the system for the full launch at the end of April.

To register candidates will be asked to ring a Teledata number (01-200 4444) when an application form will be sent. When returned the information should be up on screen within 48 hours.

The idea of a national database of job seekers has been around for some years.

In 1982 another videotape-based recruitment system was launched, although somewhat less scrupulously than this one. Called

Jobtel, it was a system where job hunters had to pay for the privilege of advertising themselves on Prestel, having been told that Prestel was a system used by thousands of businesses.

The candidates' telephone num-

bers were put up on screen, so there was absolutely no anonymity. Although Jobtel was free to the potential employers, there were just 17,000 Prestel sets installed, and very few were located in personnel departments. The system was a notorious flop.

At the same time that this was going on, Professional Executive Recruitment, part of the Manpower Services Commission, was listing job seekers profiles on Prestel, alongside its lists of job vacancies. But over four months there were only a few inquiries.

Mr Birch and Mr Marsh are sufficiently confident about the Shortlist service to already have plans to launch a similar service in the US at the end of the year, in Benelux in 1989 and in Australasia later that year.



Bob Birch: With our system, a brief resume of a job candidate goes on screen

Research balances Apple between a snail and a bee

By Richard Pawson

An Apple Macintosh is equivalent in processing power to something between a snail and a bee. No — this is not some marketing manager's rhetoric extolling the specification of some new rival machine. Rather it is the conclusion of some thorough research conducted by Hans Moravec at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Like many of his fellow researchers in robotics and artificial intelligence, Mr Moravec was intrigued with the question of when computers will overtake humans in intelligence.

His starting point was to analyse the progression in computing power, using a complex formula that took account of processing rates, on-board memory and cost — the latter being converted to 1987 US dollars.

Plotting the calculated values — expressed as bits per

second — against the year of introduction for each machine, the result is a remarkably consistent, exponential curve from Babbage's Analytical Engine through to the contemporary supercomputers.

This is despite five fundamental changes in the enabling technology: mechanical adding machines, the therm-

ionic valve, transistor, integrated circuit and microprocessor.

Crudely speaking, the processing power available for a fixed cost is multiplying by 1,000 every 20 years.

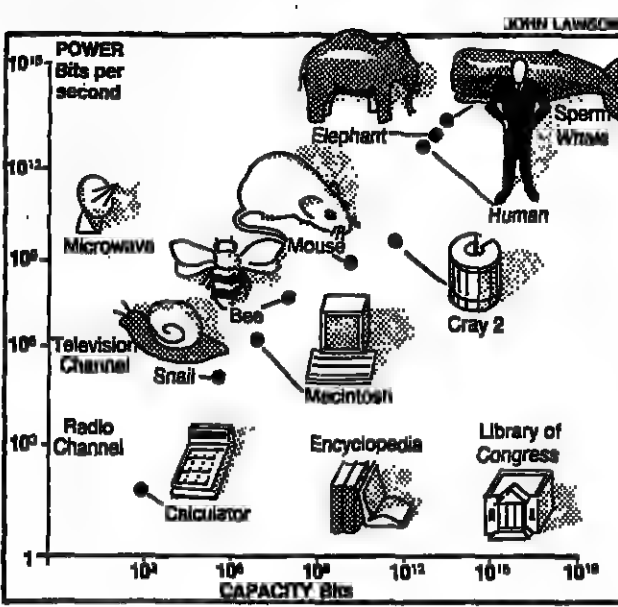
Meanwhile, how are the humans and animals doing? For Mr Moravec all animate brains are made up of neural cells — simple logic devices strung into massive networks; a snail has about 5,000 of them, while we have about 100 billion apiece.

Scientists cannot exactly define the specification of an individual neural cell — or "neuron" — but in recent years they have gained a pretty good idea.

It seems that each neuron can store approximately 100 bits of information, 12 bytes, and could process that quantity of data in around a second.

Hence the comparison between a Macintosh and a snail. But where do we fit in? Only a thousand times ahead of the biggest contemporary computers, according to Mr Moravec. Which means that they should be catching up around 2008 — just 20 years away. Extrapolating the curve even further suggests that such a package could be affordable as a domestic product in just 40 years.

Now Mr Moravec is not claiming that a machine with the same processing power as the human brain will necessarily behave as intelligently. Such a realization will require a major shift in emphasis for



artificial intelligence research.

For many years the AI community has held doggedly to the belief that true intelligence lay in abstract reasoning, such as playing chess or solving complex equations.

The robot with intelligence

Computers are now quite good at these things; you can buy a vast range of expert system packages — even for a humble PC — but they remain utterly incompetent at tasks like visual perception and navigation around obstacles that we perform instinctively.

"We have dismissed the problems of motor and sen-

sory control" much too lightly in the past," said Mr Moravec. Remember that the humble snail is carrying around his own PC equivalent just to control his basic bodily functions.

To look at it another way it took many millions of years of evolution to master the principles of locomotion and vision, before it could indulge in abstract reasoning, which has probably only been around for the last few thousand years.

To build an intelligent robot we are going to have to renege that process of evolution "although we shall have the advantage of being able to look up many of the answers in the back of the book," says Mr Moravec.

Why number theory is no longer counted as useless

By Ian Stewart

It has been used to help map the surface of Venus by radar, from earth, and to improve the acoustics of concert-halls. The United States Department of Defense recently imposed a secrecy order on an attempt to exploit its power, on the ground that this would be "detrimental to the national security".

What is it? The answer is number theory, by venerable tradition the purest, most "useless" branch of mathematics. Can two perfect cubes add up to another perfect cube? Are there infinitely many prime numbers that differ by two?

These are typical problems of number theory: deceptively simple questions about ordinary whole numbers, which would be parlor tricks were it not for the appalling difficulty of answering them.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, mathematics once pursued as art for art's sake is becoming indispensable at the frontiers of technology.

Communications systems are making considerable use of ideas taken from number theory. Messages being sent around the world can fall prey to random noise generated by, say, solar flares.

To shield communication from such perils, engineers code their signals in clever ways based on the basic properties of numbers which enables the interference to be

picked out and the errors it introduces corrected.

Number-theoretic codes developed by space scientists are so powerful that they can perform the apparently impossible feat of taking a thinly scattered sampling of returned pulses and reconstructing a meaningful signal.

Designers of concert halls trying to get the best possible acoustics for the audience



The Royal Albert Hall and Venus: Linked by numbers

have been able to take advantage of a similar technique.

People absorb sound, so ideally the acoustic response of a concert hall should be measured with an audience present. Hiring an audience to sit out the sounding sessions is expensive, however.

Using number theory, the acoustics can be measured while a concert is under way. The trick is to transmit a very faint signal consisting of about 65,000 pulses repeating every two seconds.

The volume is kept so low that the audience cannot hear the test pulses. But the mathe-

matical regularities in their structure allows the sound engineers to filter out the concert music and audience noise to give just the response of the hall to their test signal, allowing them to gauge the success of their design.

The power of number-theoretic techniques has not been lost on the military. This is where the Department of Defense comes in. It was

Since 1917, American law has permitted the government to slap a security classification on the ideas of private citizens, and under the 1951 Secrecy Act, defence agencies can request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue secrecy orders.

Early last year, such an order was placed on the Feige-Fiat-Shamir patent. After a stream of protests, the order was rescinded, the official explanation being "bureaucratic snafu".

In hindsight, the considerable applications now being found for this "useless" branch of mathematics could have been predicted. Thanks to modern electronics, we no longer have an increasingly digital world.

Number theory is digital mathematics, and what could be more appropriate for a digital world?

The author is at the Mathematics Institute, University of Warwick. His recent book, *The Problems of Mathematics*, is published by Oxford University Press.

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Please call Judith Brown on 01-847 1936, or write with full CV to Direct Technology Ltd, Grove House, 381 London Rd, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 1DS.

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Post No. D301

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To take on this important work, you will need substantial experience of managing a workforce in cleansing or a similar service industry. This is a re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not re-apply, they will be automatically considered.

A place may be available at The Workplaces Nursery for employees with children 5 months - 8 yrs old. Where relocation is necessary, expenses to a maximum of £280 plus approved removal costs, together with help in finding temporary housing accommodation, are available.

Application form (returnable by 4th May 1988) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Tel (0533) 549322 ext 7059.

As part of the City Council's commitment to an Equal Opportunity Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of marital status, sex, race, sexual orientation or disability. Disabled persons are guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced. Job sharing applications are welcome for all jobs.

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The Council operate a McDonnell Douglas Sequoia 9430 running under the PICK operating system. Over 50 local and remote terminals are connected and many PCs are installed, most also networked and linked to the Sequoia. Major upgrades to this equipment are being planned at present.

An ambitious long term plan for the development of many interesting and varied systems has been produced, using both in-house and package solutions. Other exciting projects are being considered such as using Digital Mapping techniques to convert existing data files into a corporate database.

Experience of Data-Basic, the PICK operating system and Local Government would be an advantage though not essential as full training would be available where necessary. Informal telephone enquiries can be made to the Computer Manager, Chris Thomas on (0202) 886201 ext. 253.

For details and application form, contact the Personnel Office, Council Offices, Porchester, Wimborne, Dorset, Tel: (0202) 886201 ext. 257 and returnable by 29/4/88.

East Dorset District Council

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL SERVICES

£31,035 - £33,369

Applications are invited for the above post in view of the retirement of the current Director in September, 1988.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Chief Executive for the provision of Legal and Committee services and in addition to heading the Administration Division he/she will provide direct assistance to the Chief Executive to enable the Council's corporate policies and projects to be implemented.

The post offers a considerable challenge for a forward thinking, perceptive person with the ability to provide innovation and momentum in the changing sphere of local government. The successful candidate will be directly involved with competitive tendering, school board reform and the administration of the Council's committees in dealing with the management of change.

Applicants should be enrolled Solicitors in Scotland and have extensive public sector administrative experience.

Further details and application forms (to be returned by 29th April, 1988) from Director of Personnel and Management Services, Central Regional Council, Viewforth, Stirling. Tel: Stirling 73111, Ext. 361.

Central Regional Council
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HORIZONS

A guide to career opportunities

Take a deep breath

We see a great deal of nurses and doctors on television, but there are rarely any pictures of the hospital technicians whose work is equally crucial to our well being. Among those whose work is little known, unless you happen to need their services, are the respiratory physiologists. They make measurements that reflect the function and efficiency of the breathing system. These tests assist doctors, both in diagnosis and in the assessment of a patient's progress after medication.

Checks are also carried out, for example, to make sure that the lungs of someone who is about to undergo surgery will withstand the effects of anaesthesia, or to detect whether, if part of the lung is removed, the remaining lung volume will be sufficient to sustain the patient's breathing pattern without difficulty.

Some patients are referred to respiratory function laboratories, after complaining of such symptoms as shortness of breath, wheezing, tightness in the chest, chest pains, and coughing spells. Others may have had no symptoms, but a routine chest x-ray has revealed some abnormality of the lungs.

Tests vary in complexity. The majority of tests involve the patient's breathing into equipment by means of a mouthpiece. Measurements are made from chart recordings and from meters that measure the concentration of physiological gases (such as oxygen and carbon dioxide) and special test gases such as helium and carbon monoxide.

Many of the patients are very ill and many are nervous when they visit the laboratory. Most of the processes require them to make a considerable effort, so technicians must be patient, understanding and reassuring. They must also be firm and encourage patients to push themselves.

When I walked into the respiratory function laboratory at the London Chest Hospital, the room echoed with exclamations: "Right in, right in blow, blow, blow! Now in again! Right in and blow out!"

Leonette John, chief technician, explained that the patients here fall mainly into two categories: those with obstructive lung disease, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, and those with restrictive lung disease, such as asbestosis.

In the former, the lung tissues as well as the airways can be affected. The air passages tend to collapse during exhalation, causing air trapping to occur. In restrictive lung disease, the problem is with the lung tissues themselves.

One of the patients referred to the department was seated in the body plethysmograph, a transparent sealed cabinet, in which she was asked to breathe

against a closed shutter. By this means, patients with, for example, emphysema, can be assessed for hyperinflated lungs caused by airtrapping from collapsed airways. Or you may have a patient with a disease such as asbestosis, who can be assessed for decrease in total lung capacity - that is the total volume the lungs can hold.

In an adjoining room I caught sight of an exercise bicycle. Some patients, I learned, complained of shortness of breath on exertion, but routine respiratory measurements were normal. Such patients are required to work against

Technicians are not the glamorous staff in a hospital but in vital support roles, particularly in checking respiratory complaints, they are essential, says Joan Llewellyn Owens

increasing loads and various measurements are made - of oxygen uptake, carbon dioxide production, heart rate and ventilation. Afterwards it is possible to judge if the shortness of breath has been caused by a respiratory problem.

Respiratory function tests might appear to be normal, too, in the case of a suspected asthmatic. So a technician would administer a diluted dose of histamine, a drug that triggers hypersensitivity of the airways. If it could be shown that hypersensitivity occurred at low dosages, asthma was said to be present.

The type of patients seen varies with the part of the country. In the respiratory physiology department of Stoke-on-Trent's City General Hospital, for example, the staff have been involved for many years in the investigation of chest diseases caused by industrial hazards.

Lesley Elizabeth Grotcott, a senior respiratory technician employed by the North Staffordshire Health Authority, is based at the City General Hospital. As part of her duties, she teaches students on practical training. In January, she was presented by Kenneth Baker with a medal for exceptional achievement on courses leading to BTEC qualifications in medical physics and physiological measurement.

The department at the City General Hospital has two units, one being the

laboratory, where investigations and research work are carried out, and the second the clinic, where treatment, bronchoscopies and biopsies are performed. Research involves the investigation of industrial asthma, breathing problems during sleep, and assessment of new drugs available by oral and inhaled techniques.

Only a few centres, of which Stoke is one, carry out sleep studies. Technicians may be employed to do all sleep studies, or they may take it in turns to spend a night monitoring a patient's sleep, to see if he or she stops breathing for short periods. In the laboratory the technicians carry out all the usual respiratory function tests. They also see people who may be claiming compensation for diseases caused by working conditions.

"Everything we do," points out Lesley, "involves direct patient contact, and we are totally responsible for the patients who come to our department. They even learn resuscitation techniques, so that no time is lost in an emergency. The work is varied, for technicians go on the wards to take capillary blood samples, undertake basic maintenance of equipment and use computers, which carry out certain of the calculations and store patient data.

Respiratory technicians, for whom there is a shortage, are employed in chest hospitals and in specialist departments in general hospitals. Some departments are merged with cardiology. Pay is not very good, and yet the training entails study in anatomy, chemistry, physics, mammalian physiology, medical physics, medical electronics, physiological measurements, general and communication studies, safety and first aid.

The in-service training is supplemented by study at college. Those without academic qualifications can take a year's part-time foundation course. Successful completion of this course or possession of five GCSE/GCEs at grade C or above in English, maths, physics and a third science, enables students to enter a two-year block-release course leading to BTEC National Certificate in Medical Physics and Physiological Measurement. Further study is necessary to obtain a BTEC Higher National Certificate.

Promotion is possible up to the grade of senior chief physiological measurement technician.

Further information is available from Mrs D. Muirhead, the secretary, Association of Respiratory Technicians and Physiologists, Cardiothoracic Measurement Dept, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, London Road, Derby DE1 2QY

Next in the series: medical physics technicians

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Those interested should write to the European Parliament's Information Office, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA or to the European Parliament's Recruitment Service, L-2929 LUXEMBOURG (please quote reference PE/41a/A) for further details and application forms.

Closing date for applications: 2 May 1988.

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The District Personnel Department, West Park Hospital, Epsom, Surrey TK19 8PB. Telephone Epsom (03727) 27811 Ext 360/362.

Informal enquiries may be made to Mike Theakle, Senior Assistant Director of Finance, on Epsom 27811 Ext 383.

Closing Date - 22 April 1988

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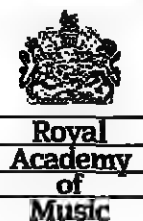
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Royal Academy of Music
Marylebone Road
London
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MUSEUM DIRECTOR BRITISH GOLF MUSEUM, ST. ANDREWS

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews Preservation Trust which has recently been established by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Fife, is seeking a MUSEUM DIRECTOR to manage a major new golf museum development in St Andrews.

The new museum is due to be completed early 1990. The Director will initially work with the project architect and project designer to ensure the successful completion of the museum building and its facilities, and thereafter manage the museum and its services on behalf of the Trust.

Candidates should have appropriate professional qualifications, relevant experience in the field of museum development and management at senior level, an interest in golf, and should combine commercial acumen with vision and imagination.

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Please apply in confidence with detailed C.V. to the Chairman, Museum Panel, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Fife, KY16 8JL.

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£70,191-£2,075 p.a.

This post will work under the direction of the Leader of the Conservative Group and the Group's Research Officer. Duties will include assisting in policy research studies, preparing briefing notes, interpreting and presenting statistical data, attending meetings as necessary and liaising with other Departments of the Authority. The successful applicant will be energetic and innovative and be able to demonstrate a good academic record. Previous relevant experience would be an advantage. Job share scheme available.

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Further details and an application form may be obtained by telephoning Nottingham (0602) 823378. Completed applications to be returned to the Staffing Officer, Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall, Closing date 25 April. Please quote ref. CCE/MS/16/223 and whether full time or job share.

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County Hall - West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 7GP



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The Cayman Islands Government Office
197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB
Telephone: 01 581 9418

Applications should be completed and returned by Friday 29 April.

01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

LEGAL

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We are looking for a qualified, experienced solicitor to work in a planning capacity for the Property Services Department, from 23rd May 1988-3rd February 1989 in order to cover Maternity leave. You'll be involved primarily in a wide range of planning activities including drafting complex planning agreements, advising on general planning matters and advocacy at planning enquiries.

Together with the highly competitive salaries, we offer an attractive benefits package which is applicable to the above positions: 35 hours flexible working week; Minimum 23 days holiday; season ticket loans; Work place nursery. Interested Please ring Gerald Balabanoff (01-863 5611) ext 2280 for an informal chat or writing Miss Evelyn Brown, Room 123, Dept of Law & Administration, P O Box 2, Civic Centre, Harrow HA1 2UH (01-863 5611 ext 2327) for full details and an application form.

Closing date: Friday 29th April 1988.

HARROW

LAW & ADMINISTRATION

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

BARKING AND DAGENHAM
MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE
COURT CLERK

£10,191-£17,784

Applications are invited from Barristers Solicitors or persons qualified by the Justices' Clerks (Qualifications of Assistants) Rules 1979.

Completed application forms, which can be obtained from my office, should be returned to me by not later than Friday, 22nd April, 1988.

ROBIN WRIGHT

CLERK TO THE JUSTICES

EAST STREET, BARKING, ESSEX, IG11 8EW.

(Telephone: 01-594 5311)

INNER LONDON
MAGISTRATES'
COURTS SERVICEBARRISTERS
OR
SOLICITORS

£17,231 - £22,299 pa

Applications are invited from Barristers and Solicitors called or admitted in England, for employment as DEPUTY CHIEF CLERKS in the Inner London Magistrates' Courts Service. Previous experience in a Magistrates' Court will be taken into account but is not essential.

The starting salary is £15,731 pa rising by annual increments to £20,299 pa. In addition a London weighting of £1,500 pa is payable. Benefits include 6 weeks' leave, pension scheme (main provisions non-contributory), and interest free season ticket loan.

There are prospects of promotion to higher grades.

For an application form and further particulars write quoting reference DC7/1 to:

The Principal Chief Clerk, Inner London Magistrates' Courts Service, Third Floor, 100 West Wing, Bank House, Aldwych, WC2B 4JH

Completed applications must be received by 30 April.

THE SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

THE COLLEGE OF LAW

INTERESTED IN
LECTURING?

A vacancy has arisen for a lecturer in law at the Guildford branch of THE COLLEGE OF LAW. There are also vacancies at the Chancery Lane (London) branch of the College; applicants who would prefer to be considered for these should indicate this in their application.

The salary will be within the scale £13,425 - £21,190 p.a. plus an allowance of £1,500 (Guildford) or £2,500 (London), with the entry point depending on age and experience. Normal annual increments will be £900 from February 1989, holidays are generous, and promotion to higher grades with a maximum salary in excess of £36,000 is possible.

Applicants (who must be solicitors) should send full personal, academic and professional details to:

L.R.H. Griffiths, The College of Law, Brabourne Manor, St. Catherine's, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HA.

Rochester Upon Medway City Council
CITY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Applications are invited for the following posts:

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

Solary range £17,295/£19,206
FREE - BUPA Medical Cover

The City Council is seeking to appoint a solicitor or barrister to this challenging third tier post, following the appointment of the existing postholder as Assistant Town Clerk with another authority.

The postholder will deputise for the Council's Solicitor, who has responsibility for a team of 15 Officers. The work is varied with emphasis on planning and litigation, with advocacy both at Public Inquiries and in the Courts, as well as regular attendance at committee meetings.

Candidates should be suitably qualified, with good managerial skills and the ability to communicate effectively with Members and other Officers of the Council. Ref. CE006.

SENIOR LAW CLERK

Scale SO1/2 £11,322/£13,173

Following the career progression of the existing postholder, an experienced legal executive is required for this interesting post in the Legal Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for a challenging range of work, primarily the preparation of contracts and prosecution/civil litigation, with minimum supervision. Ref. CE007.

For an informal discussion about either of these posts, please contact the Solicitor, Mr. D. Walker, Medway (0604) 732777.

A generous relocation package is offered in approved cases.

Medway is situated in beautiful Kent countryside offering a wide range of attractive, reasonably priced housing, an excellent travel network, including rail, air and supports together with extensive leisure and good educational facilities.

Application form and job descriptions are available from the

Personnel Services Manager, Civic Centre, Street, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AM.
Telephone: Medway (0604) 732706
(24 hour answering service)
Closing date: 25th April 1988

Medway - THE PLACE TO LIVE & WORK

HEALTH CARE

HEALTH CARE

Angelash

International recruitment

1001 NEW BOND STREET
LONDON W1N 6EJ
TELEPHONE London 01-481 1444
TELEX 52884 FAX 01-481 6861

Major Private and Ministry Hospitals in Saudi Arabia and UAE are currently seeking consultants in the following specialities: Internal Medicine, Gastroenterologist, Cardiologist, Gynaecologist, Pathologist, Obstetrician.

Also Medical Director, Infection Control Supervisor, Quality Assurance Officer, Chief Pharmacist, Physiotherapists, Radiographer required.

All positions carry excellent tax free salaries and all other benefits. One year minimum contracts.

For further details of these and other medical vacancies -

Kathy Johnson

01 408-1444

Mon-Fri

0795-76392

Eves and Weekends

UNIT GENERAL MANAGER
MENTAL HANDICAP UNIT

SALARY: £22,820 per annum

plus performance related pay.

The previous Unit General Manager has been promoted to manage our large Acute Unit. We are, therefore, looking for a new Manager to take on this challenging and developing Unit. We have already made significant steps towards implementing our Mental Handicap strategy and we need a very able and resourceful Manager to continue and to develop the process.

The District General Manager, David Treloar, (telephone Windsor 859221) would welcome informal discussion and the previous Unit General Manager, Nigel Crisp (telephone Slough 34567) would be happy to answer any queries.

The package of information is available from

The Director of Personnel, Sue Toy,

81 Frances Road,

Windsor, Berks, SL4 3AW.

(telephone Windsor 859221)

Application by CV should be sent to the

Director of Personnel by the closing date of

6th May 1988.

WEST CUMBRIA HEALTH AUTHORITY

MANAGER OF INPATIENT AND
ELDERLY DAY CARE SERVICES

(SUPERINTENDENT IN PHYSIOTHERAPIST)

This post has been established as part of the restructuring of the Physiotherapy service and is based at the District General Hospital at Whitehaven. Applications are invited from Physiotherapists seeking a management role whilst continuing to practice clinical skills.

The successful candidate will have had a broad based clinical career with a bias towards medical neurology, respiratory care, inpatient orthopaedics or care of the elderly.

We are looking for a person with leadership and organisational abilities and an interest in quality control, outcome measures, equity and efficiency to join the District Physiotherapy Management Team which is committed to providing a quality service to its clients.

An informal visit is strongly recommended. For further information, Job Description and Application Form please contact Miss A. P. H. Evans, District Physiotherapist, Workington Infirmary, Workington, Cumbria. Tel 0906 2244 Ext 272.

TECHNICAL

DIRECTOR OF
TECHNICAL SERVICES
Up to £36,789 p.a. inc.

The Borough

- The largest London Borough in area/ 288,000 population/ 10,000 employees/ £260m annual budget/ urban, suburban, rural mix.
- Central London 20 minutes - Kent and Sussex coasts 75 minutes/ adjacent M25 and M20/A20 extension.

The Job

- Member of Council's Management Board - dynamic management style.
- Chief Officer of combined department - architecture, planning, development control, civil engineering, highways maintenance, waste collection disposal, building maintenance, energy conservation, transport and land charges.
- Turnover: Revenue £18m, Capital £20m.

The Requirements

- Top level management experience and expertise.
- Substantial, demonstrable success in career to date.
- Potential to develop further and meet challenges in 1990's.
- Ability to delegate, motivate and encourage excellence in others.

The Package

- Equity sharing up to 50% (max £70,000) to assist removal to Bromley.
- Lodging allowance £75 per week.
- Car leasing £85 per month - Granada Ghia; Carlton CD 2.0i; Honda Legend; Nissan Bluebird Executive.
- Potential for contract package within 2 years - current value £40,000 plus.

For a full information pack and application form, please contact the Chief Personnel Officer, Bromley Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH.

Telephone: 01-290 0324 (24 hour answering service). Please quote Ref: DTS. Closing date: 29th April 1988.

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

FINANCE

CROYDON HEALTH AUTHORITY
DISTRICT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
SALARY SCALE 18: £13,337 - £16,035 PA INC

We seek enthusiastic and ambitious accountants to manage a busy Management Accounts Department. This is a challenging position and involved working with a sophisticated on-line budgetary control system and the job will provide a firm foundation for further career development. It is expected that the candidates will be either qualified accountants or show significant progress with their professional studies.

Prospective candidates are invited to telephone Richard Jefferies, Director of Finance on 01-684 6999 ext 4012 or John Papes, Deputy Treasurer on ext 4236 for information discussion.

Application form and job description from: District Personnel Department, Croydon General Hospital, London Road, Croydon CR9 2RH. Telephone 01-684 6999 ext 2022.

KINGSTON COLLEGE OF
FURTHER EDUCATION

CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES

HEAD OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT UNIT

POST NO. 87 57 01

Needed as soon as possible, an experienced lecturer and manager in Information Technology in Further Education, with particular expertise in Expert Systems. The ITDU is a National Centre for Staff Development for IT in NAPE in Expert Systems, supported by an Educational Support Grant from the Department of Education and Science, and undertakes research and development projects with public and private sector sponsors in the UK and overseas.

Salary scale: £15,369 - £18,549 + £795 London Allowance

Details and application forms should be obtained from the Principal, Kingston College of Further Education, Kingston Hill Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2AG, quoting the post number and enclosing a large s.a.e.

Applications should be returned within 14 days from the date of the appearance of this advertisement.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

TECHNICAL

KERRIER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
CORNWALL
CHIEF TECHNICAL
OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT

Assistant Technical Officer (Engineering)

Grade P.O. Points 6 - 9 (£14,625 - £15,921)

Applications are invited from Chartered Engineers (of either sex) for this third tier post in the Chief Technical Officer's Department to head a Section dealing with the Civil and General Engineering services of the Council.

The Department has a varied and interesting programme of reworking works as Agents for S.W. Water, industrial development, land reclamation, coast protection, energy management and other general engineering projects.

Candidates should have appropriate experience in the preparation and administration of large contracts as well as the supervision and co-ordination of a wide spectrum of general engineering projects and functions carried out by the Council.

The successful applicant will be expected to prepare reports for and represent the Chief Technical Officer at Council and Committee meetings.

The post is based at Camborne in the northern half of a District containing many areas of outstanding natural beauty including the Lizard peninsula and which offers a wide variety of sporting and leisure activities.

Application forms and further details of the post may be obtained from the Personnel Officer at the address given below (telephone (0209) 712941, extensions 363/4) and completed forms must be returned not later than 29th April 1988.

Conveying will disqualify.

Council Offices J.G. MILLWARD
Camborne CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
TR14 8RY

Scottish Office

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
Scotland

As Chief Medical Officer at the Scottish Home and Health Department in Edinburgh, you will be the principal adviser to the Secretary of State for Scotland on all medical and related topics. You will head a Medical Group concerned with policy formulation and advice on health and health service matters. There will be close co-operation with Health Boards and the Common Services Agency together with regular contact with the medical profession, the Chief Medical Officers of the other Health Departments in the United Kingdom and, from time-to-time, with the World Health Organisation.

You must be a fully registered UK medical practitioner. Relevant qualifications must be backed by substantial experience in a senior medical appointment (preferably at an advisory level), accompanied by an understanding of the particular health needs of Scotland. A high standing within the medical profession and the personal qualities necessary to influence policy

are essential. It is anticipated that candidates with the requisite experience and background will be around 50 years of age.

Salary is in the region of £43,000, although there is the possibility of further negotiation with well-qualified and experienced candidates. Relocation expenses up to £5000 may be paid in appropriate circumstances.

The position is based in Edinburgh, and it is required to be filled not later than 1 December 1988.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 6 May 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours), or telex 859399 CSCOMM G. Please quote ref: SJ/7537.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

PERKINS
& TUSTIN
Of Northampton.

Require

- 1) **SOLICITOR.**
To deal with company/commercial work and commercial conveyancing.
- 2) **LITIGATION SOLICITOR.**
Primarily for High Court and County Court matters.
- 3) **LITIGATION SOLICITOR.**
Primarily for advocacy and matrimonial work.
- 4) **TWO ARTICLED CLERKS.**
To start September 1988.

We are part of the fast developing town of Northampton using the latest technology and having three offices. We provide a good, friendly and comprehensive service, and we seek people to develop that service further.

Please apply with C.V. to Mark Goring, Perkins and Tustin, 4 Billing Road, Northampton. Tel 0604 34272.

SOLICITOR

Expanding North Cotswold three Partner practice requires two hard working, ambitious solicitors, preferably with some post qualifications experience in general private practice.

Excellent salary, early partnership prospects, car, usual sickness benefits and help with relocation expenses.

Box No. A80

COMPANY
SOLICITOR

South Coast £24,000+

We are a substantial private company operating throughout the South-East with head office on the South Coast.

The company wishes to appoint a capable and adaptable young lawyer as legal assistant to the Company Secretary.

The successful applicant will deal with all commercial conveyancing and property matters and provide an in-house service on general company/commercial matters including employment law. Candidates with a sound knowledge of commercial conveyancing willing to develop expertise in Company Law will be considered.

The post will enjoy early Management status and the excellent remuneration package will include company car and non-contributory pension and private health care schemes. Relocation assistance may be available.

Please apply with full C.V. c/o:

Wynne Baxter Godfree
221 High Street,
Lewes, East Sussex
ref: 61026.

MACKENZIE MILLS

Expanding five partner Chancery Lane practice closely associated with leading Italian law firm seeks

TWO COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
SOLICITORS

one with a good working knowledge of Italian, the other with corporate insolvency experience.

Please apply to:

The Manager, Mackenzie Mills
Quality Court, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1HP.
Tel: 01-242-2919

Continued on next page

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

COMMERCIAL LAWYERS

c £21,000

At the centre of the securities market



The International Stock Exchange is a highly progressive service organisation. With the continuing development of sophisticated electronic information and settlement systems, it is rapidly enhancing its position at the centre of the worldwide securities market.

Within the Legal Services Department, a group of twelve qualified Lawyers provides a service to all parts of the organisation. At present, we seek three Lawyers, preferably aged 23-27, with at least two years' experience, to join this young team.

Contracts and Intellectual Property

One appointment calls for specialisation in IT/Computing Contracts, Intellectual Property, Trade Marks, Copyright, Competition Law and general advice on contractual matters. Previous experience in some of these areas would be an advantage but is not essential. Inter-personal skills and initiative are crucial.

Legal Analysis

Two further appointments will be made in the Legal and Constitutional Office, whose role is to undertake a legal analysis of projects under development, assessing issues as they arise and advising management on their implications.

As a Legal Analyst, you would work closely with development teams and, in the light of constantly evolving legislative and regulatory provisions affecting the securities industry, would identify necessary changes and promote their acceptance both within the ISE and outside it.

Experience in a securities-related regulatory environment is desirable but not essential. High levels of communication skill and problem-solving ability are expected.

This is a time of constant evolution in this market and these appointments are key to the management of change. Salaries are highly competitive and the benefits package includes non-contributory pension, free travel, BUPA and relocation expenses where appropriate.

Send a full CV, or telephone in confidence. Edward Geraghty, Recruitment Officer, The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Ltd, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP. Telephone: 01-920 9111, extension 20356.

A market in progress

Making a case for success

Deputy Legal Adviser

c £21K plus benefits based Horsham

At Sun Alliance Life, our rapid growth and progressive outlook has created a stimulating environment for our legal team. A place where you can really do your talents full justice. And achieve the success you deserve.

With Head Offices in Horsham, West Sussex, and in Bristol we're the life assurance and pensions arm of Sun Alliance, one of Britain's biggest and most enterprising insurance groups.

Our Life Legal Services Department works on a diverse range of issues arising from our life assurance, pensions and investment services.

As Deputy Legal Adviser, you'll enjoy the sort of challenge and real responsibility that comes with this senior post. As well as assisting and deputising for the Division's Legal Adviser, you'll be involved at all levels of the decision making process, advising and directing on all relevant legal implications. You'll also provide significant

assistance in the field of new business development.

You'll need to be a qualified solicitor or barrister with at least 3-4 years' experience advising on legal and taxation matters in the life assurance and pensions field.

Obviously, you'll need a keen interest in finance and the practical application of commercial law and the law relating to trusts and taxation.

In return, we can offer you an outstanding benefits package, including non-contributory pension scheme, subsidised mortgage scheme and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Make a case for your own success. Write with current C.V. or telephone for an application form to: Miss Sue Marshall, Life Personnel Services, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, Sun Alliance House, North Street, Horsham RH12 1BT. Tel: Horsham (0403) 64141 ext: 3519.



Sun Alliance Insurance Group incorporating Phoenix Assurance

Commercial Conveyancer

London

Young lawyer with suitable conveyancing experience required to join the Legal Department of one of the UK's leading life assurance companies with a vast portfolio of commercial properties spread throughout the United Kingdom.

The position is to be based in London assisting a Senior Solicitor in dealing with all aspects of conveyancing resulting from the Company's property investments. The job will initially involve all areas of commercial property work including sales, purchases, leases and eventually development projects.

The salary c £15,000 will be payable in addition to all the other benefits associated with a large financial

services group and includes a subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension, free private medical insurance, season-ticket loan and a share scheme.

If interested please send your CV to the Confidential Reply Manager, Austin Knight Selection, Kings House, Bond Street, Bristol BS1 3AE. Please quote Ref. S/332.

Applications will be forwarded to the client concerned. Therefore any companies you do not wish to receive your CV should be listed separately in a covering letter.

Austin Knight Selection

TIME TO MOVE ON

A very professional service offered to Solicitors, Locums and Legal Executives.

Looking for a career change?

We have some excellent vacancies. Salaries from £20,000 upwards. Please come in and discuss your future in a private and discreet ambience with Legal Consultants highly experienced in all fields.

Evening appointments by arrangement.

Please telephone Mr Leslie Ashley and Mrs Pamela Handford. Ashley Specialist Appointments 01-583-5335.

COMMON LAW CHAMBERS

At 3 Temple Gardens, at present 14 members (including commercial specialists) Seeking suitable candidates for expansion. Applications in writing. Reply to BOX A80.

MANAGER

INSURANCE
HONG KONG

The Through Transport Club is a mutual insurer and the market leader in insurance for multimodal transport operators. The Club's General Correspondent Far East Office which is based in Hong Kong wishes to recruit a suitably experienced person to train as a Manager.

After a one year training period in London the successful candidate will move to Hong Kong and assume substantial responsibility for liaison with Members, insurance brokers and other Club contacts. Frequent travel within the Far East and to London will be required.

You must offer:

- education to degree level or to 'A' level equivalent with a professional qualification.
- oral and written fluency in Cantonese, Mandarin and English.
- executive experience in a shipping, transport, insurance or legal environment.

Computer literacy, numeracy and fluency in Shanghaiese or other relevant languages will be useful and the most appropriate age range for this position will be 27 to 35.

The starting salary is likely to be between HK\$225,000 and HK\$275,000 and the usual executive benefits will be available. Please send full educational and career details to:

Richard Scambler, Personnel Director.
THOMAS MILLER & CO.
International House, 26 Creech Lane, London EC3A 5BA.
Tel. No. 01-283 4646.

Private Client - Tax Planning

£ Highly attractive + car + benefits

Our client is a highly respected and progressive International Practice in the Cotswolds. The partners are devoted to the firm's expansion and recognise that growth and prosperity depend upon the ability to provide a service that is perceived to be excellent.

We have been instructed to introduce able and ambitious City Lawyers with an enthusiastic approach to their work to assist in the continuing success of the firm, within the Tax Planning department.

These appointments offer a stimulating opportunity for those wishing to expand their experience and secure their future, where hard work and commitment are rewarded with an excellent commencing salary and definite Partnership prospects.

If you have the relevant experience since qualifying then please telephone John Grimwade in the strictest confidence, or write to him at the address set out below.

JAMES DAVIS
PARTNERS

LEGAL SELECTION

160 New Bond Street,
London W1Y 0HR England
Telephone 01-493 8515
(24 hour answering machine)
Fax 01-491 7459

Senior Solicitor

Up to £16K plus Car (with possible progression to £17.4K)

A challenging role for a Solicitor to join a busy team in one of the most attractive parts of Surrey.

As the Senior Solicitor you will be responsible for advocacy before the courts and at planning enquiries, conveyancing and litigation. You will also attend committees of the Council to advise on legal matters.

We are a progressive authority, with many new initiatives. We operate a performance related pay scheme which offers the possibility of progression to £17.4K. The use of a free car and a generous relocation package and equity sharing scheme.

For an informal chat please call Anne Jones now on 0932 845501. Job descriptions and application forms from Personnel Office, Civic Offices, Station Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AH. Tel: 0932 845501 ext. 215. Closing date: 25.4.88. Ref: 47VBS.

RUNNYMEDE

BOROUGH COUNCIL

TECHNICAL ADVISER - LEGAL

WIDE-RANGING ROLE FOR YOUR SPECIALIST SKILLS

- Timbridge Wells
- Guaranteed 5% bonus
- Subsidised Mortgage
- Non-contributory pension scheme
- Free PFI and PFI
- 14/15, 23 days' holiday
- Flexible working hours

NPI is an industry leader in the pensions and investment markets, managing funds in excess of £2.5 billion.

In such a fast-changing business, quick, accurate and progressive legal and technical advice is increasingly important to our sales success. Which is why we are looking for an ambitious and experienced specialist to join our team.

You will provide a wide-ranging advisory service to staff members and independent advisers, with the emphasis on the writing of new business. This involves everything from interpreting tax statutes to involvement in trust documentation, and will bring you into day-to-day contact with professionals and other specialists.

The challenge is to solve complex problems and to convey the solutions clearly at meetings and in reports. This requires a responsible, decisive style and an ability to operate under pressure.

Candidates must be law graduates, ideally with a professional qualification, and will have at least 4 years' legal and technical experience in financial services.

We offer a competitive starting salary, excellent career prospects and an attractive range of benefits.

To apply, please write with full CV or for an application form to: Sara Palmer, Personnel Department, National Provident Institution, National Provident House, Timbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE. Tel: (0892) 705330.

NPI

IT PAYS TO WORK WITH THE EXPERTS

MONIER-WILLIAMS.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

We are seeking a young Solicitor to specialize in residential conveyancing with scope for commercial property and other non-contentious work. The successful applicant will take on existing high quality work and there are exciting prospects for development of the practice.

Applicants should be keen, of good academic background and preferably recently or up to two years admitted. Relevant experience is desirable but not essential. Salary will be in the range of £16,000 to £20,000 depending on experience.

Please apply with C.V. to Christopher Hughes, Monier-Williams, 1 Vintners' Place, Upper Thames Street, London. EC4V 3BQ.

Lewisham firm require LITIGATION SOLICITOR

to carry out varied work load including matrimonial, County Court and High Court litigation and personal insurance.

Three years qualified experience required; salary according to experience.

Contact Mr. P. Leverton, Straker, Bedford & Company, 16 Bellamy Hill, London. SE13. 01-851 2921.

Meredith Scott

Associates

RANKING

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY to c£25,000 Leading EC2 practice requires young solicitors, ideally with up to 6 years' good London or provincial post qualification experience, for range of quality work.

PENSIONS LAW to c£45,000 Respected medium sized City practice requires solicitor preferably with at least 3 years' post qualification experience, to deal with this expanding area of the practice. High profile position with genuine partnership prospects.

CONSTRUCTION LAW to c£35,000 Major central London practice needs solicitor or possibly barrister with ideally minimum 2 years experience of both contentious and non-contentious aspects of this increasingly important area of law. Good partnership prospects.

CORPORATE TAX to c£30,000 Major EC2 firm requires solicitor or barrister with ideally up to 3 years' experience of Corporate Tax. Excellent partnership prospects.

RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING to c£20,000 This well known City practice requires a legal executive specialising in residential conveyancing.

01-353 7085

LEGAL SELECTION CONSULTANTS

17 Fleet Street, EC4Y 1AA. (01-541 3897 after office hours)

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

مكازم التجهيل

Industrial Page



Michael Page Partnership

Accelerating
through the 80's...

Allied Dunbar is one of the most innovative and successful groups in the financial services industry today. Managing funds in excess of £5 billion, it provides a wide range of financial services both in the UK and internationally, its areas of expertise include life assurance, pensions and unit trusts.

The Legal Department, based in Swindon, provides a comprehensive service to the whole Allied Dunbar Group and is central to its operations. Exciting opportunities currently exist for young ambitious lawyers in front line roles - influencing company decisions, advising the sales and marketing departments and assisting in the development of new products and services.

Successful applicants, either newly qualified or with up to four years' post qualification general legal experience, will need to demonstrate good communication skills and the ability to deal persuasively with others at all levels.

An attractive package will include a company car and generous relocation expenses where appropriate. Career prospects are excellent. Allied Dunbar is an equal opportunities employer.

For further information please contact Camille Waite on 01-831 2000 or write to her at
The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham
Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide



Legal Adviser

The Securities and Investments Board offers an opportunity for a bright and energetic barrister or solicitor to join a professional team of lawyers based in the City Offices of this high profile organisation.

Reporting to the Director of Legal Services, the successful applicant will be responsible for the provision of timely and accurate advice to policy divisions and to the Board itself. The areas of law covered will encompass all aspects of the financial services industry.

Applications are invited from young lawyers with a minimum of two years' post qualification experience ideally gained in one or more of the following areas;

- trust law
- insolvency law
- unit trusts
- occupational pensions schemes
- life insurance

They should be able to demonstrate the capacity for original and creative thought and an ability to advise accurately and confidently under pressure.

A competitive benefits package is offered with this challenging opportunity.

For further information please contact Gary James on 01-831 2000 or write to him at
Michael Page Partnership,
39-41 Parker Street,
London WC2B 5LH.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham
Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide

Property
Solicitor

An exciting and challenging career opportunity has arisen for a young, commercially minded solicitor to join the legal department of this major British Group.

The RMC Group has a well earned reputation for the profitable growth of its diverse activities ranging from a traditional base in the supply of construction materials, to DIY retailing, security alarms, builders merchants and waste disposal. As part of a small high-profile legal team you will provide a legal service to all UK Divisions. Reporting to the Head of the Legal Department you will be involved in a broad range of matters, principally property related including land and property acquisitions, property disposals, planning and commercial advice.

Applications are invited from solicitors with between one and three years' post

qualification experience and the ability and personality to forge close working relationships with senior management throughout the UK. A competitive salary package including a company car is offered, together with excellent prospects for career progression.

Initially based at their Head Office, West of London, you will relocate in approximately two years to a new International Headquarters currently being built in delightful surroundings near Thorpe, Surrey.

For further information please contact Steven Grubb on 01-831 2000 or write to him at The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership,
39-41 Parker Street,
London WC2B 5LH.
Strictest confidentiality assured.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham
Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide

Private Client,
Public Company...

Our client, the Financial Services and Trust Division of a major clearing Bank, currently seeks a further lawyer for its Chief Office.

As an integral member of a small professional legal team the successful candidate will provide an advisory service to operational management in the Division. This covers not only the traditional areas of estate, trust and tax administration, but also legal issues relating to the ever growing range of financial products available to customers.

The position offers the opportunity for a qualified solicitor or barrister to handle high quality work in a challenging and professional environment.

Although proven post qualification experience in the above areas is desirable, applications will also be considered from more recently qualified lawyers who wish to pursue a career involving UK taxation and the administration of foreign assets.

In addition to a competitive starting salary the Bank also offers a subsidised mortgage, profit share and preferential loan schemes, pension and bonus.

For further information please contact Gary James on 01-831 2000 or write to him at
Michael Page Partnership,
39-41 Parker Street,
London WC2B 5LH.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants
London Bristol Windsor St Albans Leatherhead Birmingham Nottingham
Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide

Corporate Loans

Commercial Lawyer

City

An exciting and challenging opportunity has arisen for a young, high calibre solicitor to join the fast expanding Corporate Loans Division of this major UK finance house.

As part of a small specialist legal team based in the City, the position offers work of the highest quality and provides the opportunity to make use of your legal skills in a commercially demanding environment.

Applications are invited from qualified solicitors with commercial

experience, who ideally have gained exposure to banking and property work.

A competitive remuneration package is offered, including a company car and subsidised mortgage scheme, which will be negotiated to reflect the age and experience of the candidate.

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Forgetting does not avoid possession

Regina v McCaig
Before Lord Justice May, Mr Justice Otton and Mr Justice Simon Brown
[Judgment March 30]

Once a person had or possessed something knowingly, such as an offensive weapon, he continued to have or possess it until he or another person did something to rid him of it. Mere forgetting that he had possession was not enough to prevent the state of possession from continuing.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Cleveus Errol McCaig against his conviction on November 11, 1987 at Inner London Crown Court (Sir David Hughes Morgan and a jury) of carrying an offensive weapon. He was sentenced on that conviction to three months' imprisonment consecutive to 12 months' imprisonment imposed on his conviction of attempted unlawful wounding. On his conviction of reckless driving he was also sentenced to three months' imprisonment, consecutive, and was disqualified for three years.

Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides: "(1) Any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, has with him in any public place any offensive weapon shall be guilty of an offence."

Mr E.K. Coffe, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Andre De Moller for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the appellant was arrested after an incident which gave rise to the offences. It was not disputed that when his car was searched a cash was found in the glove compartment.

The prosecution alleged that when asked why it was there the appellant said that some of his mates had been attacked and that if he was attacked he would use it, but only to defend himself.

During his evidence he denied saying that and said that he had told the police the truth, that he had picked up the cash on a building site where he worked and had put it in the car about a month before the incident, and forgot it.

This appeal involved consideration of four earlier decisions (which were concerned with the necessary mental element in having or possessing a prohibi-

ted thing): *R v Cugillere* ((1961) 1 WLR 658); *R v Russell* ((1972) 1 WLR 644); *R v Russell* ((1984) 81 Cr App R 315); *R v Martindale* ((1986) 1 WLR 1042).

It was necessary to make one comment first. Where the cases concerned the question of drugs, the consideration was one of possession. In so far as the cases were concerned with offensive weapons, what was relevant was having the offensive weapon in a public place.

Their Lordships thought that to have something with one necessarily required closer contact than mere possession. For the purpose of the instant case and the other four authorities, the relevant considerations as to recollection and forgetfulness were the same.

Their Lordships were driven to the conclusion that *Burwell* and *Martindale* could not be reconciled with *Russell*. As Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, had pointed out in *Martindale*, *Russell* was decided without the court being referred to *Burwell*, and their Lordships would hold that the decision in *Russell* must be considered as having been reached *per incuriam*.

That did not detract at all from the decision in *Cugillere*, which could be distinguished on its facts in that there was no knowledge of the possession from the outset so that it was not a question of forgetting pos-

session after obtaining it. Therefore *Cugillere* could stand properly as an authority alongside *Burwell* and *Martindale*.

The basic principle underlying those cases was that once someone had or possessed something, he continued to have or possess it until something was done by him or another to rid him of it.

Mere forgetting that one had possession, having once had possession knowingly, was not enough to prevent the state of possession continuing. There was not, in the words of Lord Justice Phillimore in *Burwell*, some sort of limbo into which the holding of the article went after recollection dimmed.

There had been no misdirection by the judge as to the requirement of knowledge that the appellant had the cash with him, and there was no need to leave to the jury the question whether the appellant had forgotten he had the cash with him.

He knew he had it with him when he picked it up from the building site and he continued to have it with him in the car. In so far as the statute was concerned, he had it with him in a public place, where the alleged offence was committed.

Further, their Lordships were satisfied that the fact that someone forgot that he had an

offensive weapon in his car when he was driving it was no reasonable excuse upon which he could rely within the statutory provisions of the relevant Act.

On the other hand, when that forgetfulness was coupled with particular circumstances relating to the original acquisition of the article, that combination could be a reasonable excuse for someone having the offensive weapon with him.

For instance, if a person, driving along a road where earlier there had been a demonstration, saw and picked up a policeman's truncheon which had been dropped and put it in his boot intending to take it to the nearest police station, then of course if he was stopped within minutes he had a reasonable excuse for having the truncheon with him.

If he forgot it was in the boot and two years later was stopped and the truncheon found, the circumstances of its original acquisition and the passage of time during which the car owner had forgotten completely that it was there, together could comprise a reasonable excuse for having the offensive weapon.

There had been no misdirection on this question of reasonable excuse. The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Inner London.

Negligent valuation surveyor can be liable to house purchasers

Davies and Another v Idris Parry
Before Mr Justice McNeill
[Judgment March 29]

Where evidence of structural damage was apparent during an inspection for a valuation report by a building society, liability could be established where there was sufficient proximity in the relationship between purchaser and valuer and reliance was known to have been placed upon that report.

The valuer could not rely upon an automatic blanket exclusion of all liability for negligence, whose visual inspection of a property was not carefully performed and that would be particularly so when he was dealing with the lower end of the market and where it

would be likely that the purchaser would not instruct their own surveyor.

Mr Justice McNeill so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment for the plaintiffs, David R. Davies and Joan Davies and holding the defendant valuation surveyor, Robert Idris Parry, liable for damages for not drawing attention to major defects caused by the laying of the house's foundation concrete slabs on compact burnt shale which was contrary to building practice.

Mr William R. Wood for the plaintiffs; Mr Geoffrey Little for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MCNEILL said that there were plain differences

of judicial opinion upon the effect of a disclaimer in a mortgage application.

Three recent Court of Appeal cases reached different conclusions as to whether the disclaimer was subject to the test of reasonableness under section 2(2) of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977: *Phillips Products Ltd v Hyland* ((1987) 1 WLR 659); *Smith v Eric S. Bush (a firm)* ((1987) 3 WLR 889); and *Harris v Wyre Forest DC* ((1987) 1 All ER 911).

His Lordship would favour the approach adopted in *Smith* applying the test of reasonableness for the particular facts.

Solicitors: Stevens & Co, Chirk; Longueville Gittins & Co, Oswestry.

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WC1

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- Property
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LEGAL ADVISER

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To obtain an application form either telephone 01-834 5958 (24 hour Answerphone service) or call at the One-Stop Services floor at Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, SW1 or at 313 Harrow Road, W9. Please quote appropriate reference number.

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Stephen A. Horton,
Clerk to the Justices,
Law Courts, Sandwell,
Warley, West Midlands.
B66 2BP.

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Please contact Marilyn Lucas in the case of the litigation vacancies, and Robert Lown in respect of the others in the first instance at 8 High Street, Southampton SO9 1LR. Telephone: 0703-221344.

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West Midlands

Cox is angered by Maxwell's move for Cruyff

By Dennis Shaw

Arthur Cox put his future as the £60,000-a-year manager of Derby County in jeopardy yesterday with an extraordinary public attack on Robert Maxwell, his club chairman.

Cox issued a Press statement deploring Maxwell's action in offering a position of technical director to Johann Cruyff without prior consultation. Maxwell disclosed on Saturday that he had made the approach to the famous former Dutch World Cup player who is expected to become the next manager of Barcelona.

Cox, who has led Derby from the third division into the first and is working hard to keep them there, regards the move as undermining his position. "I am deeply hurt that Mr Maxwell has so little respect for me after what I have achieved for him and his son, Ian, over the past four years," Cox said.

"He allowed me to read the offer to Cruyff in a newspaper without a phone call to me to talk it over. I feel justified in making my views public because, in essence, Mr Maxwell is offering either my job or the job of someone else at the Baseball Ground.

"If he is not pleased with my achievements he should at least tell me to my face. He might remember that I have an agreement that I recommend any appointments on the playing side and it has four years to run."

Cox did not confine his response to observations about his own relationship with the controversial chairman; he also reacted to comments made about the state of the English game and the implication by Mr Maxwell that Bobby Robson's team could not beat Albania.

He said: "These remarks are totally unfounded. We dominated European club competitions when we were involved while Dutch football is at its lowest ebb for years."

Cox, whose hopes of establishing Derby in the first division were undermined by a mid-season transfer ban during Maxwell's protracted row with the Football League over the Watford takeover attempt, also took his chairman to task on this score.

"Mr Maxwell is one of the few men who is in a position to stop the drain of British football talent to the Continent. If he bought only one or

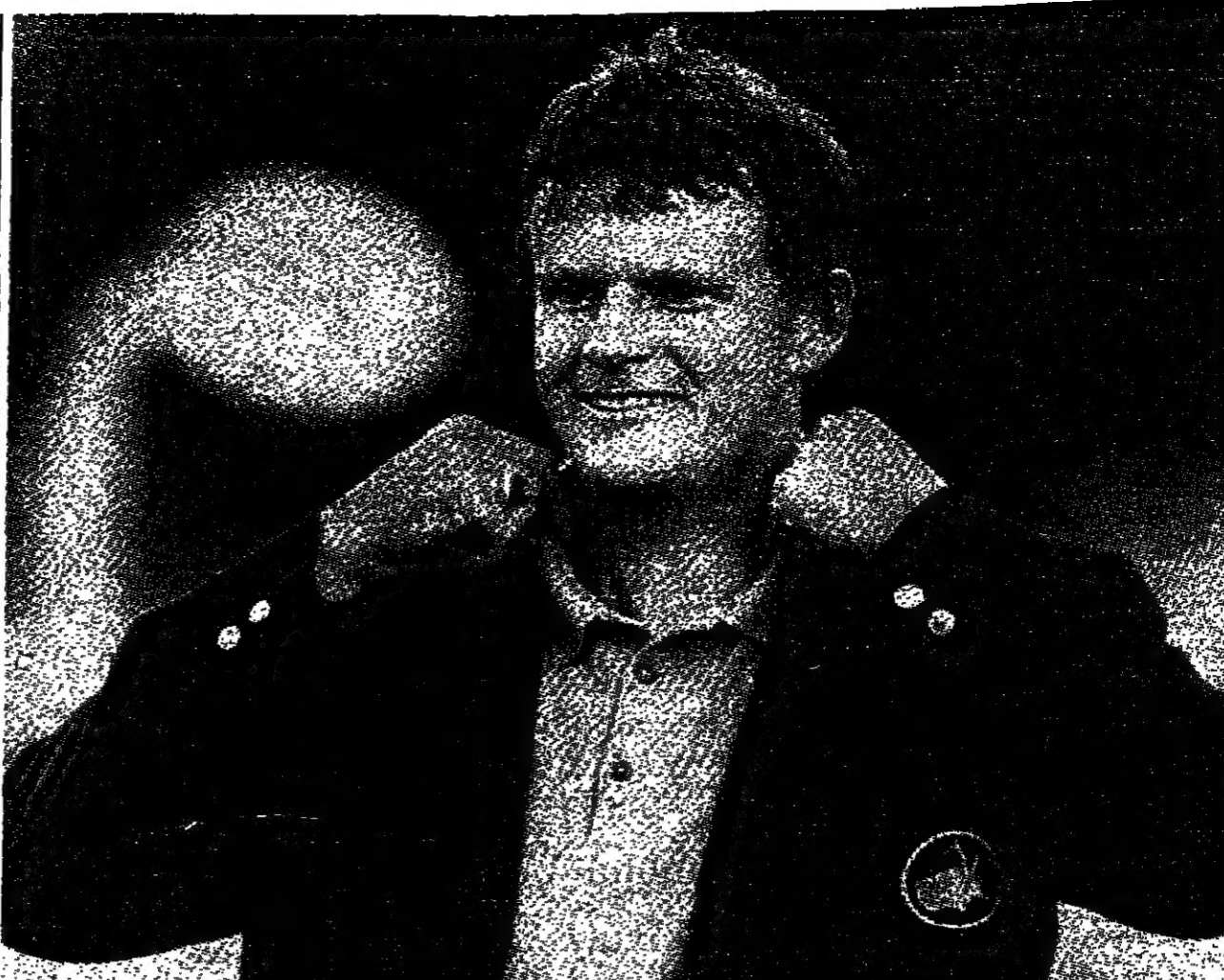
two of Rush, Lineker, Hatzel, Hoddie or Hughes for Derby, that would be far more beneficial than a coach who, although a great player, has yet to prove himself in management.

"The chairman said at the start of the season that we would compete with the big clubs. We have fulfilled our fixtures but we have not competed in the manner meant at the time. He has a management team at Derby that will stand comparison with any and given his complete backing they would prove their worth totally."

"So come on Bob. Behave yourself for the good of British football and, above all, for the sake of Derby County. We have four very important matches to play in the near future and this is not the time to be rocking the boat."

Cox, who previously led Newcastle into the first division, has four years remaining on his contract, which was signed last summer when Aston Villa were keen to appoint him.

Maxwell did not react yesterday to an invitation from *The Times* to reply to his manager's comments.



Putting on the green: the coveted Masters jacket is Lyle's following his final-hole victory at the National course on Sunday

Modest Lyle finds himself the scourge of American golfers

From Mitchell Platt
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

\$1M EARNINGS IN EIGHT MONTHS

Event	Position	Winning
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European Open	49th	US\$1,880
Lancome Trophy	3rd	US\$8,000
Ryder Cup (Europe)	Won	US\$50,000
Dunhill Cup (Scotland)	2nd	US\$23,800
German Masters	1st	US\$33,177
Suntory World Match-Play	2nd	US\$22,280
Kirin Cup (Europe)	2nd	US\$33,000
World Cup (Scotland)	2nd	US\$25,000
World Cup (Individual)	2nd	US\$24,400
Australian Open	3rd	US\$8,850
New Zealand Open	3rd	US\$8,257
US Tournament of Champions	15th	US\$7,312
Phoenix Open	1st	US\$117,000
AT&T	12th	US\$13,300
Doral Open	15th	US\$15,500
Honda Classic	15th	US\$22,267
Bay Hill	15th	US\$12,375
Greater Greensboro Open	1st	US\$180,000
Masters	1st	US\$163,800

BIOGRAPHY OF A CHAMPION

Birthplace: Shrewsbury.
Born: 9.2.58.
Height: 6ft 11in. Weight: 135lb.
Married: Christine Trew, 1981 (now divorced).
Children: Stuart (19.8.83); James (9.2.86).
Special interests: Motorcycles, cars, aeroplanes.
Aged 3: Hit first golf ball 80 yards.
Aged 5: Scored 124 in first official medal.
Aged 10: Broke 60.
Aged 11: In grandstand at 18th when Tony Jacklin won Open.
Aged 12: Father, Alex, got professional, bought Hawkstone Park Golf and Country Club in a syndicate.
Aged 14: Boy International.
Aged 16: Won Carris Trophy, Brabazon Trophy.
Aged 18: Member of Walker Cup team, won Brabazon Trophy again, turned professional and won qualifying Tour school event.

Instead, the phlegmatic Lyle lofted a magnificent seven-iron shot out of the fairway bunker at the 18th and the ball landed some 28 feet behind the flag. It momentarily paused before, as if willed by the gallery, it began to slowly roll back towards the sanctuary of the hole. Lyle was eventually left with a putt of eight feet which had a couple of tiny breaks, first to the left and then to the right, but which, to all intents and purposes, was a straight putt.

He coaxed it home and the Scotsman who lives in England did an Irish jig of joy at the thought of having won the coveted green jacket. So he became the first British golfer to win the Masters and the first since Arnold Palmer in 1960 to win with a birdie at the 18th hole when playing in the rest of his life," he said. "I nipped the seven-iron shot

cleanly off the sand and I knew I couldn't get a flyer. Then on the green I looked at the setting sun, because the grain always goes that way, and I knew it was basically a pace putt. I gave it a good roll.

"It was a very satisfying way to win. When I won the Open in 1985 I didn't get into contention until the last four holes. I didn't carry the same weight of pressure as I did here. Now I've proved that I can lead a major for three days and pull through even if there was a minor hiccup or two."

The grooming of Lyle began from the moment his father, Alex, the professional at the Hawkstone Park Club in Shropshire, watched his son hit his first shot, aged three and wearing wellington boots, some 80yds.

He developed into an excellent amateur golfer before making a successful transition to the professional ranks.

"Many times I felt like quitting," he said. "It's like going to another school: the format is the same but the atmosphere, and the food for instance, is different. But if you want to become a Jack Nicklaus or a Tom Watson, then you must play worldwide. Ten Spanish Opens will not make you a global star. I've surprised myself a few times but then I do believe you make your own luck."

It was on the greens that Lyle excelled himself. He did not have a three-putt until the final day. "I watched Nicklaus putting at Doral," he revealed. "I lowered my right elbow a little and I got a better extension with the putter. I holed out extremely well."

He did that and Lyle, now, is the only man who can win the "Grand Slam". "That's the four majors, isn't it?" he said innocently. "I'll think about it!" It was the kind of reaction that has won the hearts of the American nation.

END COLUMN

Kicking a giant when he is down

By Peter Ball

This is an age of anti-heroes in sport, as in life. Rules, tradition and sportsmanship too often are spat on or laughed at by the modern sporting superstar with his retinue of agents, sponsors and hangers-on.

But what did respect for tradition and sportsmanship bring John Charles, whose move to Italy for a then astronomical £65,000 transfer fee in 1958 proved a big factor in the abolition of the maximum wage?

A testimonial shared with Bobby Collins at Elland Road tonight: a narrow escape from being sent to prison for payment of rates; and his current state as an unemployed man of 56 living in a small semi-detached in a little village between Leeds and Halifax.

In its prime Charles's fame gave him the aura of a Greek god; but he was more than just a big man who was good in the air on the football pitch. He also possessed a delicate and dextrous touch.

And he was a genuine hero. While Ian Botham, that other physical and sporting colossus, seems intent on disproving the old belief about the gentleness of giants, Charles was its embodiment. That gentleness was fiercely tested by brutal treatment, not only in Italy, but from unexpected quarters like Real Madrid and the remnants of the great 1950s Hungarian side during the 1958 World Cup.

"People say that Real didn't kick. Well, they certainly kicked me," Charles remarked, looking back to the 1962 European Cup quarter-final, which went to a play-off. "They kicked us in Madrid and they kicked us in the third



Charles: gentleness itself match in Paris. They had wonderful players at the front but they were a very hard team at the back."

The treatment he endured so stoically persuaded some that he did not use his own power enough. "I feel he likes to play football without contact, which is patently impossible," carped Stan Collis, manager of Wolverhampton, who had Eddie Clapp, the 1950s precursor of Peter Stoney and Vinny Jones, as his midfield enforcer.

Charles played the game his way without regrets. "I did get kicked a lot but my height and weight carried me through. And I was aggressive. If I went for a ball, it was mine, but as for kicking or belting people, I didn't like that."

That holy innocence carried him through his football. It probably suited him for business, leaving him as another great star with little but memories, but it undoubtedly helped him transfer successfully to Italy.

Yet in his day a move to Italy was stepping into a different culture. Italian football and footballers were almost unknown rather than regular visitors to our television screens. Footballers spent their holidays in Blackpool rather than the Algarve. By comparison with Charles's trip to Turin, the moves to Barcelona, Turin and Munich by Lineker, Rush and Hughes are no more than a journey from Wrexham to Liverpool.

He adapted better than anyone, proving possibly the most successful import in Italian football of all time. "I loved Italy, loved the country, loved the people. I got on very well with the people in Turin and I didn't take long to learn the language — it is very important that you do that very quickly."

There may be a lesson for Rush and Hughes there, but as well as being a tribute to the man, Charles's success also reflects his outstanding ability as a player. Thirty goals helped Leeds to promotion in 1955-56; the following season he claimed 38 goals in 48 matches for an ordinary side in his only season in the first division.

After that he went to Juventus and glory, his subsequent travels to Leeds, Roma, Cardiff, Merthyr and Hereford only reviving memories of the great days. But for those memories alone it would be nice if Elland Road were filled to the rafters tonight.

Arrests on the increase at first division games

By John Goodbody

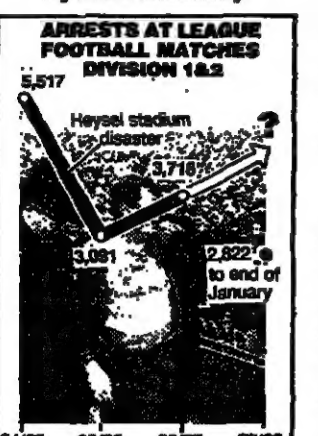
The number of arrests at first and second division football matches this season is rising, so continuing a trend since the Haysel stadium disaster three years ago.

Figures, given to *The Times*, up to the end of January show a 74 per cent jump in arrests at first division games and two per cent at second division matches compared to the same period last season.

This season, 1,521 people have been arrested at first division games, compared with 874 last season, and 1,301 at second division matches compared with 1,275 in 1986-87. The total of 2,822 until the end of January compares with 3,716 for the whole of 1986-87.

David Phillips, the secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' sub-committee on hooliganism in sport, said yesterday that he expected there would be "some increase" when all the arrest figures are collated at the end of this season.

But he warned that there is a danger in drawing too many conclusions from intermediate figures during a season. "The number of games is not necessarily the same at an identical date in the two years, and 'combustible' matches may have been played early one



season and late the next. "We may find that the bulk of the arrests has come from a small percentage of games. We shall see when we have all the figures in the summer."

Phillips also pointed out that although the number of arrests has increased over the last three seasons, it does not necessarily mean that violence has been getting worse. Police have become increasingly expert at countering hooliganism, particularly through more sophisticated intelligence operations and the use of closed-circuit television and spotters at grounds.

However, he added: "There is no doubt that Haysel sta-

dium had a deflating impact on hooliganism in the season immediately after the tragedy. There was clearly a downturn in violence with spectators saying: 'We have had enough of this'.

"My impression now is that there is an element of latent aggression at some games, which is very unpleasant, and if there were not careful policing there would be trouble. There are fewer people who are generally disposed to violence than there used to be, but there remain some groups. These people are still to be sorted out."

Phillips, who is Assistant Chief Constable with Greater Manchester Police, said he did not think that the rise in the number of arrests would have any influence on UEFA, when it makes its decision whether to readmit English clubs to next season's European competitions.

"Speaking personally, I think UEFA is far more concerned with the behaviour of English supporters on the international stage than they are with the domestic situation," he said.

The continental governing body is to make its decision after the European championship finals in West Germany in June.

Dennis is detained in hospital

By Dennis Signy

Mark Dennis, the Queen's Park Rangers defender who recently completed an eight-match ban following the eleventh dismissal of his career, was yesterday detained in hospital in Croydon with injuries following an early-morning dispute over hailing a taxi.

Dennis had been at the Professional Footballers' Association awards dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, on Sunday night and afterwards left with friends to visit a club in Islington.

According to Rangers, Dennis was in hospital having stitches in a head wound; it was understood that he and two friends had been involved in an argument with another group.

Dennis, who was suspended by the Football Association on a charge of bringing the game into disrepute following his dismissal at Tottenham in November, has made one brief appearance as a substitute since the end of his long ban.

England face captain crisis

The England under-21 team, who play France in the European under-21 championship semi-final tomorrow at Besencon, is so badly hit by withdrawals that Dave Sexton, the manager, was unable even to name his captain when the depleted squad flew out yesterday (Clive White writes).

TEKLE, P. Sefton (Crystal Palace), S. Perisic (Sheff Wed), M. Wood (Aston Villa), A. Thorne (Wolves), C. Cooper (Middlesbrough), D. White (Manchester City), G. Parker (Nottingham Forest), A. Gray (Crystal Palace), S. Sefton (Coventry City), P. Sefton (Middlesbrough), P. Sefton (Middlesbrough).

Ban on SA tour players unlikely

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Rugby Football Union, in the words of Dudley Wood, its secretary, "will not facilitate" the proposed international tour of South Africa this summer by passing on invitations to players. But it was announced yesterday, the RFU full committee will discuss the whole issue on April 29 — though it is unlikely they will follow the Welsh Rugby Union line and ban any player from taking part.

"The RFU's attitude to South Africa has been quite consistent. We do not feel the climate is right for teams to go there, and are not in favour of representative matches being played. But we do not particularly like interfering with the individual's freedom of choice," Wood said.

The RFU, like the other home countries, have received a request for the South African Rugby Board to invite up to five players. "I do not believe we will facilitate this tour to take place by providing players," Wood said. "As far as this year is concerned we will do our utmost to dissuade players from going. We are absolutely in line with Government policy here."

Wood admitted that the union was aware of the adverse effect support for the tour might have on the game. He also expressed the opinion that no financial inducements would be forthcoming from South Africa "in the light of what happened last year, and while South Africa want to remain members of the International Board."

Last year the RFU was unhappy that South Africa brought the South Seas Barbarians to their shores, in the wake of the New Zealand Cavaliers in 1986, both tours in which illegal payments were said to be involved.

One England player, Peter Winterbottom, is already in South Africa. The Headingley flanker flew out at the weekend, having withdrawn from consideration for England's summer tour to Australia because he wants to play a full South African season.

The RFU believe that he qualifies for dispensation from the recent International Board ruling which prevents players who are moving from one hemisphere to another appearing for their visited team before 12 weeks have elapsed.

There has been much confusion on this issue, notably over whether the 12-week ban applies on homecoming. First the board said it did, but the RFU confirmed yesterday that it does not; thus Winterbottom will escape the ban at both ends, having made all his arrangements before the board made their directive.

"We are trying to sort out a common-sense solution to problems of players who have made all their arrangements," Wood said.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), said yesterday: "They proclaim platitudes to appease international opposition, yet on the quiet they are having contacts with South Africa."

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The Mortgage Corporation
National League

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
Sunday 17th April at 2.00 p.m.
Croydon Direct Liners vs Bournemouth Yamaha Aces

The match will be played at The Surrey Tennis and Country Club, 1 Lonsdale Way off Stafford Road, Croydon.

Phone: 01-686 5040 for tickets.

Croydon Direct Liners
Darren Cahill (Australia)
Buster Mottram (Surrey)
Robin Drysdale (Essex)
Sean Cole (Surrey)

Team Manager: Headley Baxter

Bournemouth Yamaha Aces
Peter McNamara (Australia)
James Turner (Avon)
Laurence Matthews (Hants & IOW)
Chris Wilkinson (Hants & IOW)
Bob Booth (Dorset)

Team Manager: Ken Weatherley

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Paton dies in Durban

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